

Lebanon denounces Israeli comments on Syrian presence

BEIRUT (AP) — Foreign Minister Faris Bouez has denounced comments by Israel's prime minister that the Jewish state will not rule out a Syrian military presence in Lebanon as part of a peace settlement. Yitzhak Rabin's remarks were "a clear attempt to undermine Lebanon's sovereignty and to interfere in this country's internal affairs," Mr. Bouez said in remarks published Wednesday in Beirut's independent *An Nahar* daily. Mr. Rabin told the Jerusalem Post earlier this week that the continued presence of the Syrian army in Lebanon was a peace option that Israel could live with. "If we're talking about the concept of peace, the question is not one or two Syrian divisions in Lebanon, but to what extent peace and security arrangements become a reality," Mr. Rabin said. "As a former military man, I prefer two Syrian divisions deployed in the northern Bekaa Valley than on the Golan Heights," he said. Mr. Bouez said "the place, aim and duration of this (Syrian) presence is a Lebanese-Syrian matter which Rabin cannot use as a bargaining card." Israel's negotiations with Lebanon and Syria have been stalled since February despite attempts by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to revive the talks. He was expected to make another Mideast shuttle, the fifth this year, later this month.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يوميات مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة

Palestinian police arrest more Islamists

GAZA (R) — Palestinian police arrested 20 more members of a Muslim fundamentalist group which killed an Israeli soldier this week, bringing the total to 41 in two days. Palestinian and Israeli security sources said Wednesday. The crackdown against Islamic Jihad followed Israeli demands that the Palestinian self-rule authority stop Muslim militants from attacking Israelis in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources said police arrested sympathisers and political activists in the faction across the Gaza Strip on Tuesday night. Police authorities have not given any official reason for the arrests. Islamic Jihad said its members carried out Sunday's attack as part of a "body struggle to liberate Palestine" and vowed to continue fighting Israel despite the arrests. Gunmen killed the soldier and wounded two others in a drive-by shooting. Seven Israelis have been killed and 12 wounded in the Strip since the Palestinian authority took control in May. Meanwhile Israeli police shot dead two suspected Palestinian car thieves near Pardes Hanna in northern Israel early on Wednesday, a police spokesman said. Police opened fire at the Palestinians from the occupied West Bank who had stolen two Israeli cars when one tried to run a policeman over and the other drew a gun, the spokesman said.

Volume 18 Number 5709

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8-9, 1994, RABI' ALAKHER 3-4, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Prince Hassan urges parties to end political sloganeering, devise action plans, programmes

Opposition resigns itself to inevitable peace, vows to resist normalisation

By Abdullah Hassanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Political parties opposed to the peace process appeared yesterday to generally agree with the government that the peace option with Israel was the most realistic under prevailing regional and international circumstances, but said they were totally opposed to normalisation. During a meeting at the Hashemiyah Palace called by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to launch a dialogue between the political parties and trade unions, on the one hand, and the newly formed Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation, on the other, Islamists and leftists toned down their opposition to the ongoing peace process even though they insisted that their role in the coming era was to mitigate the negative aspects of a peace deal with Israel.

The fiery Leith Shbeilat, who in 1992 was convicted in charges of sedition but later was pardoned by His Majesty King Hussein, said he thought the most radical of radicals would not have been able to resist the pressures that were placed on the country to reach peace with Israel. Mr. Shbeilat, who presided over the engineers' association, described King Hussein as the "captain entrusted to save the boat" and said the opposition supported the regime's quest for an equitable peace with Israel.

The Crown Prince opened the five-hour meeting by

urging the political parties and trade union leaders to abandon "political sloganeering" in favour of clear and well-defined political programmes and political agendas.

"The crisis of political movement in the Arab World," Prince Hassan said, is mainly due to chauvinism that upholds banners which are devoid of content.

"Political banners are burdens on the shoulders of their carriers and only lead to crippling society's movement," he said referring to broad parties' stands that opposed the peace process.

Yusef Abu Bakr, the secretary general of the liberal Islamic party Dna'a, agreed with the prince. He said that Arabs at this moment in their history were "neither able to make history nor should they be thrown out of it. We have to adjust to history and be realistic. We are heading for a compromise (with Israel) not peace," he said.

"We are the losers and Israel is the victor, and we should make every effort to cut the losses," said Mr. Abu Bakr, who has been at odds with the main Islamic party, the Islamic Action Front (IAF). The leader of the IAF, Ishaq Al Farhan, who avoided mentioning the peace negotiations by name, said his movement was totally opposed to normalising relations with the Jewish state and he urged the regime and the political parties to "work together irrespective of our political stands."

"We are opposed to all forms of normalisation," he said, "and the opposition should be made to play its role in this regard in full."

Wednesday's meeting with the Crown Prince was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, his deputy Thounan Hindawi, a number of ministers, and members of the Royal Commission.

At the outset of the long meeting, Prince Hassan sought to clarify the exact role of the commission which some political leaders had thought was obscure.

"The commission does not represent the executive branch," he said. The commission is made of officials in "their own personal capacity," he said.

He said that whatever reform the commission would introduce would only be within a "constitutional and legal framework." Development, the other task entrusted to the commission, "is the twin of democracy," the Crown Prince said.

A document read by commission member Adel Qudus said the Commission had given priority to two issues, investment and control over government purchases. The document said that "immediate measures to create 'investment windows' were being studied and should be finalised soon."

It said that certain legislation pertaining to investment should be reviewed and a

(Continued on page 12)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday addresses a meeting with political parties and trade union leaders at the Hashemiyah Palace to discuss the work of the newly-formed Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation.

Agreement eludes U.N. conference

CAIRO (R) — The U.N. population conference in Cairo put aside abortion on Wednesday after the Vatican and other Roman Catholic states rejected the latest compromise and ignored a U.S. plea not to hold up agreement.

In marathon talks on Tuesday, representatives of about 150 countries came close to consensus. But when they resumed on Wednesday the debate bogged down in wrangling over words — "legal" and "illegal," "safe" and "unsafe" abortion.

"They were arguing over alternatives to the alternatives," said Latvian delegate Gunta Lazari.

The main drafting committees of the conference decided to refer abortion to a small working group. Delegates would look at the result on Friday and either adopt it or reject it without any further discussion, delegates said.

The United States said on Wednesday the Vatican should either sign up or drop out so that the wrangling over abortion would not block agreement on a U.N. programme of action on population.

"Let's hope today either they state what their problems are and take reservations or join the consensus," Timothy Wirth, head of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development, told reporters.

Delegates said the Vatican and Latin American Roman Catholic countries lobbied at Wednesday's meeting to block any liberal views in the abortion text. They demanded that the original text be changed to be less liberal, the delegates added.

European delegates said Norway stood up and said it had already gone far enough, insisting it would be better to stick to the original proposition. Others said the more liberal countries had reached their "bottom line."

"We've reached the endgame and the Catholic countries are still pressing for more," one Western delegate said.

Besides the Vatican, the countries that objected to the compromise were Argentina, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Chile.

On Tuesday night the Vatican delegate drew a chorus of boos when she said she could not accept the contentious paragraph, which took most of the day to draft.

The latest text distributed to the press explicitly rejects abortion as a means of family planning, urging countries to tackle the threat to women from unsafe abortion and to reduce their recourse to abortion by better family planning.

Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must be given highest priority and women should have ready access to compassionate counselling, it adds.

Delegates said those who rejected the final version on abortion would just have to add a note stating their reasons.

"The final version will pass if the majority adopt it," said Hungarian delegate Klinger Andras.

Mr. Wirth said the hitch seemed to be in a sentence saying that where abortion is legal, it should be safe.

"There is no objection to that line," he said.

associated with anything that even says that abortion could be legal," a U.N. delegate added.

Asked what would happen if the Vatican did not approve the final document by the end of this week, Mr. Wirth said: "Well, they can take their reservations."

Vatican delegates linked approval of the abortion section to changes in the chapter on "reproductive rights."

The Vatican wants to insert a sentence stating that nothing in the document "should be construed as constituting an internationally recognised right to abortion," said one.

Outside the committee room where the delegates are meeting, pro-life activists stood with a big display box of plastic wombs with foetuses. "How can abortion be safe when it is a crime to kill a child," one activist said.

The programme of action, which took three years to draw up, sets non-binding policy guidelines which would keep the world's population to 7.23 billion in 2015, up from 5.67 billion now.

Former editor Anani: PNA clears An Nahar articles

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former chief editor and co-owner of East Jerusalem's *An Nahar* newspaper, Issam Anani, quit the daily a few days before the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) shut it down in late July.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Anani said that his decision to quit *An Nahar* paper came "60 hours before I heard of its ban."

"I decided to leave the paper due to political, financial and administrative differences I had with my partner, Othman (George) Hallaq," Mr. Anani said from his Amman home. "I did not have an inkling that the PNA was about to close down the paper."

After 36 days of *An Nahar's* closure, it reappeared on Monday with an editorial pledging allegiance to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and an announcement that Mr. Anani was no longer associated with the daily.

The PNA closed down the paper shortly after Jordan and Israel signed the Washington Declaration on July 25 where Israel recognised the Kingdom's special role in the guardianship of the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

"We consider the ban of *An Nahar* as a summer cloud which has gone and the reason for the ban has gone," its editorial read on Monday.

Mr. Anani, however, said that he had told Mr. Hallaq of his intention to leave the paper six months ago when he stopped writing political columns and went to the paper only once a week although he was chief editor. He added that he had returned to putting in more into his profession as a lawyer.

"My resignation came into effect 60 hours before the news of the paper's closure came out," said Mr. Anani one day after his arrival from Jerusalem.

He could not confirm reports that one of the conditions *An Nahar* had to meet before reopening was that he would have to leave the paper. But he said that two of the conditions were that the paper would adopt the PLO's official political line and that a PNA representative had to clear every article written about Jordan, Syria and other Arab countries before publication.

Palestinian journalists in the West Bank, who feared the closure of *An Nahar* would set a precedent for the PNA to crack down on journalists opposing some PLO policies, criticised the ban as violation of freedom of expression and cautioned against the principle of repressing that freedom.

While the Palestinian authority had officially said its decision to shut down the daily was because it did not have a license, they privately criticised the paper for "being a mouthpiece for Jordan," and suspected

it of being financed by the Kingdom.

Mr. Anani, who founded the paper eight years ago with a pro-Jordanian editorial policy, confirmed that his newspaper obtained "symbolic financial assistance" from Jordan in the first few years of its establishment.

"But these small contributions stopped after Jordan disengaged administrative ties with the West Bank in 1988," Mr. Anani said, adding that the paper was mostly financed by himself and Mr. Hallaq.

Mr. Anani said he was pro-Hashemite and that he strongly believed in "Jordanian-Palestinian unity and Arab unity in general," while the PLO wants its own independent state in the West Bank and Gaza with Jerusalem as its capital.

"In my opinion, the unity of the East and West Banks for 19 years before Israel captured the West Bank in 1967 was the most successful experiment of its kind in the Arab World," Mr. Anani said. "The two banks with their culture and peoples are an extension of each other, they are the closest neighbours and share the longest borders."

In the meantime, Mr. Anani said he will completely cut his relations with *An Nahar* once he has sold his 40 per cent shares and then pursue his career as a fulltime attorney. He added that he might continue to contribute articles to Arab papers on either side of the Jordan River.

Merhej quits Hariri cabinet

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A member of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's government already stripped of the interior ministry portfolio walked out of a cabinet session Wednesday saying he had resigned. Bishara Merhej said he quit because Mr. Hariri's half-Christian, half-Muslim cabinet refused to debate last Friday's presidential decree, which made him minister without portfolio.

Mr. Merhej was replaced as interior minister by Vice Premier Michel Murr, a Greek Orthodox Christian like Mr. Merhej.

The minor reshuffle brought no major change in the policies of Mr. Hariri's government, formed in October 1992 to rebuild Lebanon after the 1975-1990 civil war.

Mr. Merhej emerged from President Elias Hrawi's palace in suburban Baabda only seven minutes after the meeting began.

10,000 dead in 2½ years of Algerian violence — Zeroual

TUNIS (R) — Algerian President Liamane Zeroual, seeking a negotiated settlement to civil strife, has acknowledged to opposition parties that the violence of the past 2½ years has cost some 10,000 lives — far more than have been officially reported.

Conflict between the army-backed authorities and Islamic fundamentalists has caused damage estimated at \$2 billion, the president told party leaders.

The figures were published by the National Liberation Front two days after its secretary-general, Abdelhadi Mehri, took part in a meeting with President Zeroual.

The authorities have reported about 4,000 deaths in attacks and clashes since a multi-party parliamentary election that Muslim fundamentalists were on the brink of winning was abruptly scrapped in early 1992.

No recent total of the dead had been published. It was widely suspected that official reports on the fighting were incomplete.

"Statistics given to the parties on human and material issues caused by violence show without doubt that the country is moving towards a real catastrophe if the situation continues to deteriorate," Mr. Mehri wrote in the FLN paper *Moudjahid Hebdomadaire* to be published on Friday.

Mr. Rabin, in an interview with the Israeli daily *Yedioth Ahronoth*, said he told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that resuming the talks was "not a good idea."

Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying the Syrians "would immediately raise the demand for an Israeli agreement to complete withdrawal" from the Golan Heights seized by Israel in 1967 "and there would be a freeze."

Tishrin said Mr. Rabin's "outspoken rejection" was part of Israel's strategy of

undermining the aims of the 1991 Madrid conference that launched the U.S.-sponsored peace process and splitting the Arab parties up into individual negotiations.

Israel wants to "replace the Washington talks with unilateral and secret talks, which would only yield partial and phased deals," Tishrin declared.

It stressed that Syria, "which is fully aware of Israel's misleading and procrastinating methods, still adheres to the just and comprehensive solution and will never be dragged into Israel's plans and unilateral deals."

"The number of dead, according to the statistics, has reached 10,000 and the material damage is around 70 billion dinars (\$2 billion)," he said.

The FLN, now in opposition, ruled Algeria for three decades from its independence from France until an experiment with democracy began in the late 1980s.

Mr. Mehri was among five legal opposition party leaders who took part in talks with the president. Mr. Zeroual is attempting to arrive at an opposition consensus to include the Islamic Salvation Front, which was outlawed a few months after its near-victory at the polls.

Syria: Israel trying to wreck peace

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syria said Wednesday that Israel's rejection of resuming peace negotiations with it in Washington was aimed at forcing Damascus into "secret talks which would only yield partial and phased deals."

"Foil the Washington peace negotiations and steering them away from their path and targets was, and is still, Israel's foremost concern," the government-run Tishrin daily said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted Monday as saying he had rejected a U.S. offer to restart direct talks

with Syria, which have been stalled since February.

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Kuwait's Sabah urges flexibility

KUWAIT (AP) — The foreign minister was quoted Wednesday as urging more flexibility in Kuwait's relations with other countries, a hint that the emirate may be gearing towards reconciling with Arab states estranged over the 1991 Iraqi invasion.

"The world is changing and the interests of countries as well as their positions are affected by these changes," Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah told the editors of Kuwaiti newspapers.

"This is why we have to be ready to deal with these factors and we should not be closed in on ourselves as long as we don't lose Kuwait's sovereignty or its national interests," Sheikh Sabah was quoted as saying by the Al Watan daily.

Sheikh Sabah, known as the dean of Kuwaiti diplomacy, did not elaborate and did not name any particular countries.

But his remarks follow a visit this week by a senior Jordanian official, Mashhour Zebein, the first such mission since Jordan and Kuwait fell over the kingdom's perceived tilt towards Iraq in 1990.

Mr. Zebein's four-day trip was ostensibly to inspect the Jordanian embassy, which has been closed for four years.

Mr. Zebein has said he was optimistic the embassy would be reopened soon, but did not comment on reconciliation efforts by Amman.

But in Amman, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Mbeidin said Mr. Zebein's visit had "broken the psychological barrier between us and paved the way for future contacts on a higher level."

Kuwait has unofficially asked Mr. Zebein to have Amman intercede with Baghdad to resolve the plight of hundreds of Kuwaiti prisoners still-held in Iraq, he noted.

Mr. Mbeidin said Jordan would "cooperate and help our Kuwaiti brothers if they submit an official request to us."

Another Kuwaiti daily, the pro-government *Al Anba*, reported Wednesday that Jordan's national airline, Royal Jordanian, has officially asked to resume flights to Kuwait (story page 3).

Kuwaitis are still traumatised by Iraq's 1990 invasion and find it difficult to accept normalising relations with countries which sympathised with Iraq.

The oil-rich emirate is demanding public apologies before fences can be mended. King Hussein has said Jordan has nothing to apologise for. But the King has been making a determined effort to heal the rift between Jordan and the Gulf states — which provided financial aid to Jordan before the invasion — and appears to be making progress.

Oman has maintained links with Jordan while the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain have been showing signs of being amenable to reconciliation overture.

Officials in Amman said earlier this week Jordan was consulting with authorities in Saudi Arabia on increasing diplomatic representation in Riyadh, indicating a possible thaw in that direction.

Sheikh Sabah said Wednesday he was certain the U.N. Security Council will extend the trade embargo it slapped on Iraq in 1990 when it meets to review the sanctions later this month.

Iraq's neighbours, Jordan and Turkey, have appealed for an end of the embargo, which is damaging their economies.

Three of the five permanent members of the council — Russia, China and France — have urged a softer line on Iraq.

هَذَا عَمَلُ الْأَعْلَى

U.S. admiral: Iran now has Chinese missile boats

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Iran has recently acquired four of five Chinese Huguang missile boats to bolster its rearmament programme, the U.S. Navy commander in the region reported Tuesday.

"The threat from Iran is certainly growing," Vice Adm. Douglas J. Katz told the Associated Press in an interview as he winds up a two-year tour as commander of the U.S. Central Command in the Gulf.

He is scheduled to formally hand over to Vice Adm. John Scott Redd in Bahrain Wednesday.

Adm. Katz said that he considers one of his main accomplishments has been setting up a command, control, communications and intelligence system linking U.S. forces and those of the six Gulf Cooperation Council states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — and other allies who maintain a military presence in the region.

U.S. Navy warships in the region monitored delivery of the Huguang to Iran about two months ago, Adm. Katz said.

Iran has ordered 10 of them and may also order larger missile craft from Beijing, according to Western military sources.

Iran is building up its largely obsolete navy and has already taken delivery of two of three kilo-class attack submarines ordered from Russia. It is the first Gulf state to

acquire submarines.

The 35-metre (114-foot) Huguangs can be armed with anti-ship cruise missiles.

The Iranians' Huguangs have not been equipped with missiles, but that does not mean Tehran will not get them or already have them, Adm. Katz noted.

Iran, he said, is well stocked with surface-to-surface missiles, many of which are deployed around the Strait of Hormuz, the chokepoint gateway in and out of the Gulf.

On Iran's arms buildup, he said: "We've seen them buying not just defensive weapons but offensive weapons... We're looking at strategic missiles, we're looking at all kinds of offensive weapons."

"We worry about chemical weapons. We worry about nuclear weapons," Adm. Katz said.

"These are very big concerns. They're putting an awful lot of money into military systems when they don't have an enemy per se," said Adm. Katz.

There is "hyper (military) activity" in Iran, including "an awful lot" of training sorties by the regular air force and the Revolutionary Guards' air wing, which have MiG-29s, F-4s, F-5s and F-14s, Adm. Katz said.

The Iranians are also building up their navy and have already taken delivery of two of three kilo-class attack submarines ordered from Russia. It is the first Gulf state to

have been spotted there.

Iran took over the flyspeck island two years ago, after sharing it for two decades with the United Arab Emirates.

Adm. Katz wondered why Iran, like other oil producers economically hit by last year's slump in oil prices, continues to pour increasingly scarce resources into acquiring new weapons rather than trying to revitalise its moribund economy.

In terms of countering the perceived Iranian threat, Adm. Katz said that overall during his tour he has been able to help America's Gulf allies to "truly provide a deterrent to the future, to enhance security and stability of the Gulf."

He said part of this was helping the Saudis and their partners develop their military capabilities through scores of exercises with the U.S.-led allies.

There have been up to 80 manoeuvres over the last two years, some of them with Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan and Kenya.

"Hopefully, we're going into the 21st century with a GCC that not only can work together, but can fight together, and in the future deter all aggression and keep the Strait of Hormuz open," Adm. Katz commented.

The GCC states, together with Iraq and Iran, sit on two-thirds of the world's oil reserves. One-fifth of the world's oil supplies pass through Hormuz daily.



READY TO FIRE: Gunner loyal to Afghan eastern Kabul. In the second day of heavy fighting, President Burhanuddin Rabbani prepares to fight pro-Rabbani troops dug-in to defend a 76mm field gun in support of infantry their territorial gains (AFP photo)

Aziz denies contacts with Israel

BAGHDAD (R) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz denied Wednesday that Iraq had made any clandestine contacts with Israel.

"There is no basis for the allegation on contacts between Iraq and Israel," Mr. Aziz wrote in a front-page article in the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra.

Mr. Aziz said Israel had no interest in lifting the sanctions on Iraq, imposed for Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

He said the same allegations surfaced during the 1980-1988 Iraq-Iran war. "It (Israel) had no interest to put an end to the war between Iraq and Iran," he said.

Mr. Aziz, who functions as Iraq's foreign minister, said both Israel and the U.S. thought that retention of sanctions will contribute to further weakening of Iraq.

"This is the fundamental target of the two parties," he said.

Last month, an Israeli television report said that Iraq — which fired dozens of Scud missiles at Israel during the 1991 Gulf war — had pressed readiness to discuss peace with the Jewish state.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin also flatly denied the report.

Mr. Aziz's article came days before the U.N. Security Council reviews its crippling Gulf war trade sanctions in mid-September. Mr. Aziz is expected to travel to New York to continue his hard lobbying to persuade the Council to ease or lift the oil embargo.

Mr. Aziz said Iraq was not of the opinion that any contacts with Israel would lead to a lifting of the sanctions.

"There is no practical basis to suppose that such contacts may help the removal of the embargo on Iraq," he said. On the contrary, he added, the Jewish state, which theoretically is still in a state

of war with Baghdad, would take such contacts as a sign of weakness, giving it added reason to continue with its policy of weakening Iraq.

He said the U.S. was the main force behind the continuation of sanctions. "Its obvious aim is to weaken Iraq. It also entertains hopes of changing its national government and installing an agent regime instead."

"As long as the U.S. administration, and some of its influential circles, are under the erroneous impression that such contacts are possible, it will certainly not change its current policy of blocking efforts to lift Iraq sanctions," he said.

He said the U.S. though the world's most powerful nation, was in no position to impose its will as many countries, among them permanent Security Council members, were feeling the pinch of continuing sanctions on Iraq.

Poor nations to pay most of the bill for population control

CAIRO (AP) — Slowing the world's population explosion will cost an estimated \$17 billion a year — and poor countries will be asked to pick up most of the tab.

That price estimate is in the report now being debated at the U.N. population conference. Developing nations would cover about two-thirds of the tab, with industrialised nations and international donors chipping in the rest.

Financial experts say the money can and must be raised. But poorer countries say they can't pay. They fear the programme to educate women, improve health care and family planning and stimulate economic development will fail.

"We simply lack the resources to solve our own problems," Prince Mbili, prime minister of the southern African nation of Swaziland, told the conference.

The Economic Commission for Africa and the Organisation of African Unity say that if any programmes are to work on their continent, they will require that the industrialised world cover at least half the costs.

The price is high because the problem is grave.

World population is growing by more than 90 million people a year. If left unchecked, the world's current 5.7 billion population will more than double by 2050, according to estimates.

The \$17 billion a year the United Nations projects is needed 2000 is nearly three times the \$6 billion now spent annually on population-related programmes worldwide.

The cost rises to \$18.5 billion in 2005, \$20.5 billion in 2010 and \$21.7 billion in

2015, according to U.N. figures.

Dr. Nafis Sadik, secretary-general of the Population Conference, said industrialised countries now cover about a fourth of the cost and are being asked to increase their contribution to one-third.

"The cost appears modest compared to the potential results," she said.

The United States, Germany and Japan already have committed \$14 billion to new seven-year campaign to control population and fight AIDS. They have appealed to other industrialised nations to contribute money to those efforts.

Lewis T. Preston, president of the U.S.-based World Bank, contends the population problem must be addressed regardless of the cost.

"If we do not deal with rapid population growth, we will not reduce poverty and development will not be sustainable," he told a news conference.

Money, Mr. Preston said, shouldn't be an issue. The \$17 billion estimate represents just 1 per cent of what the world now spends each year on defence, he noted.

"By reallocation of budgets in the developing countries and continued support from the developed countries, we don't see resources really as a problem," he said.

The World Bank, one of the biggest financiers of family planning and reproductive health services, committed nearly \$200 million for such programmes last year. It projects an increase of 50 per cent over the next three years.

U.S., Egypt announce accord

CAIRO (AP) — The United States and Egypt announced an economic cooperation initiative to encourage U.S. private investment in Egypt by removing trade barriers and regulatory bureaucracy.

The agreement was announced by President Hosni Mubarak and Vice President Al Gore, who was in Cairo for the U.N. Population Conference.

Mr. Mubarak and President Bill Clinton will appoint business people from each country to a new committee that will investigate ways to

spur U.S. business investment and trade with Egypt.

The aim is to help Egypt's economy and help alleviate poverty in the face of rising Muslim fundamentalist violence that is partly fuelled by economic unrest, U.S. officials said.

The programme also will identify areas where existing U.S. aid money can be spent for development to create jobs.

The plan also calls for negotiation for a science and technology agreement. It involves no new financial aid.

Kuwait confident on Iraq curbs

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Wednesday it was confident the United Nations will renew sanctions against Iraq this month but signalled it would not be caught off-guard by any future erosion of international support for the curbs.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, commenting on the dominant source of tension in the oil-rich Gulf, said the U.N. Security Council would renew the sanctions at its regular 60-day review in mid-month because Iraq "is not even close" to complying with Gulf crisis resolutions.

But in an interview with Kuwaiti newspaper editors published Wednesday he acknowledged that changes of position "the international community on issues affecting the emirate could happen and we must take care not to be isolated."

Sabah, foreign minister since 1963 apart

from a break of a year, was quoted as saying: "The world is changing, and the interests of the world are affected by this change, and as a result their positions change too."

"Therefore we must always be ready to deal with these changes. We should not close the door on ourselves, but just so long as Kuwait's sovereignty is not violated and its national interests are not harmed."

Kuwait is sending government ministers overseas to increase pressure on Baghdad to recognise the emirate and free prisoners of war it allegedly still holds before any easing of the curbs preventing resumption of Iraqi oil exports and normal trade.

Iraq has refused to recognise the Iraq-Kuwait sea and land border demarcated and guaranteed by the United Nations since the 1991 conflict that ended its seven-month occupation.

Neither has it given author-

itative recognition of Kuwait sovereignty — a move that would cancel an old Iraqi claim to Kuwait that Baghdad made a pretext of its 1990 invasion.

Iraq has hinted it may issue a statement on those questions before the mid-September review.

A Foreign Ministry official declined direct comment on Iraq's reported call Tuesday for the lifting of the Iraq sanctions.

But he added that in general "some countries just want to please Iraq in case sanctions are lifted so they can say to Iraq that they worked for that cause."

Iraq invaded and annexed its tiny southern neighbour in August 1990 after months of disputes over the border and oil production policy. A U.S.-led multinational force advancing from bases in Saudi Arabia drove out Iraqi forces in February 1991.

Iran on missing Kuwaitis 'inadequate'

— Iraq has been providing information on 100 Kuwaitis missing since Baghdad's occupation of the Gulf emirate but information is inadequate, Western and Kuwaiti diplomats said Tuesday.

The banking Kuwaiti and officials discussed the issue in Geneva under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The talks were held as Baghdad campaigns to muster support for the removal of the United Nations sanctions which prevent it resuming vital oil exports or trading normally.

The U.N. Security Council holds its regular 60-day review in mid-September of Iraqi compliance with Gulf ceasefire resolutions linked to dismantling its weapons programmes.

Ryan Crocker, U.S. ambassador to Kuwait who led an American delegation to the talks, told Reuters: "At this stage, it is sad to say we do not have a single case that is fully resolved."

"Iraq has made partial but not conclusive reports," he said after the closed-door meeting. "We have made clear we require full and complete accounts of all cases. We didn't get that."

Kuwaiti and Western diplomats said the Iraqi delegation handed over files on 26 missing persons Tuesday. They also disclosed Baghdad's delegation had provided some information on 19 other missing Kuwaitis at the last ICRC meeting on July 1.

Iraq did not say it still held Kuwait prisoners, but acknowledged it had in the past, according to the diplomats. Iraq's delegation explained

there was no trace of some of those previously known to have been jailed, while it said others had escaped during a rebellion in southern Iraq at the end of the war in February 1991, they added.

British, French and Saudi diplomats took part in the 10th session of the special committee formed in 1991 to oversee the release of 70,000 Iraqi and 4,000 Kuwaiti prisoners of war, and to trace persons missing since the 1990 invasion.

A British government source said after Tuesday's meeting that Iraq's latest 26 files was "a step in the right direction."

"But they haven't given adequate explanations," he added. "We need to improve the quantity and quality of Iraqi reports. At the present rate it would take years to finish."

New minister shakes up Turkey's foreign affairs

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's new foreign minister has won some high marks for demanding his country be treated with "honour," but tough talk on Cyprus, Iraq and U.S. aid has raised questions about the future of Ankara's foreign policy.

Mumtaz Soysal took office five weeks ago in a messy cabinet reshuffle, driven largely by domestic concerns. Already he has changed the tone of Turkey's external relations, and that has analysts wondering: Is it new, or just new packaging?

"There is a new style, a new tone," one Western diplomat said Tuesday. "The question is, when does style cross over and become a new foreign policy?"

Diplomats have lined up for appointments at the Foreign Ministry to define any new line. So far, domestic issues and traditional geopolitics appear to have tempered a break with the past.

"Soysal can cross that line only with a consensus behind him. It's too early for that," said Seyfi Tazan of the private foreign policy institute.

"He does have his own policies but he cannot act on them... I don't think there will be a big change," said Mr. Tazan, citing restraints such as the weakness of the ruling coalition and Turkey's reliance on outside aid.

In a recent flurry, Mr. Soysal backed Northern Cyprus's rejection of federation as the only way to resolve the island's division

and advocated closer ties with isolated Iraq and Syria.

Ankara also rejected \$36.3 million in U.S. aid that was conditional on human rights improvements and progress on Cyprus, divided since the Turkish occupation of the northern third of the island in 1974.

Members of the ruling coalition and some opposition deputies have backed Mr. Soysal. News accounts — at least one leading diplomatic correspondent is a former student of the professorial Soysal — have been generally favourable.

"Bravo, Ankara," cheered Hurriyet daily, which counts Mr. Soysal among its regular columnists, after Turkey said it would not accept the aid dollars, 10 per cent of the

1995 allocation.

There has been an equally warm reception for Mr. Soysal's talk of speeding up a plan to require visas from countries that now demand the same from Turks and for restricting foreign access into Kurdish-dominated northern Iraq.

Mr. Soysal's tenure has seen the opening of low-level trade at the Habur border crossing with Iraq and a visit to Baghdad by prominent Turkish businessmen itching to see an end to the U.N. embargo against Iraq and to resume lucrative trade ties.

One member of the delegation and confidant of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller denounced the U.N. embargo, a mainstay of Turkey's official policy, as "genocide" against Iraq.

Amid the good reviews, some analysts worry Mr. Soysal's efforts to reinvent Turkey's self-confidence will go too far, inviting retaliation from traditional friends and allies.

"Slogans which sound good to the ear may not be reasonable," Hassan Cemal wrote in the top-selling Sabah daily. "Foreign policy initiatives, aimed at (Turkey's) domestic affairs, can bring unwanted developments."

Mr. Cemal said Ankara already has its hands full with the 10-year Kurdish insurgency and an anaemic economy that relies on the goodwill of international financial institutions.

"The main goal of foreign policy is to reduce the (number of) fronts, not to multiply them," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ... Un Siecle De Chansons
18:30 ... News in French
18:45 ... Quart D'Heure De Mathematique
19:00 ... News in Hebrew
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Heart of Courage
21:10 ... Murder She Wrote
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... Movie of the Week: "Ernie Kovacs Between The Laughs"

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 ... Fajr
10:10 ... (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:34 ... Dhuhr
16:08 ... Asr
18:58 ... Maghrib
20:17 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swiffeth, Tel. 811740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637400
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630651, Tel. 62543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 64195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will be slightly with winds northwesterly moderate.

In Amman, winds will be north-easterly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman ... 21 / 34

Aqaba ... 27 / 38

Deserts ... 20 / 39

Jordan Valley ... 26 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 33, Aqaba 37 Humidity

readings: Amman 22 per cent,

Aqaba 35 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Muthales Halasa ... 819220
Dr. Yousef Sammour ... 815448
Dr. Jamal Jbara ... 847351
Dr. Jamal Maragah ... 776149
Firas pharmacy ... 661912
Ferdous pharmacy ... 780336
Al Asman pharmacy ... 636730
Nairokh pharmacy ... 623672
Al Salam pharmacy ... 636730
Yacoub pharmacy ... 644945
Shmeisat pharmacy ... 637660
Najih pharmacy ... 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Zakaria Malkawi ... 218620
Alquds pharmacy ... (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Samir Al Lawzi ... 998001
Khalidh pharmacy ... 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ... 637111

Civil Defence Department ... 661111

Civil Defence Immediate ... 637660

Rescue ... 630341

Civil Defence Emergency ... 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade ... 617101

Blood Bank ... 775121

Highway Police ... 843402

Traffic Police ... 896390

Public Security Department ... 63021

Hotel Complaints ... 605800

Price Complaints ... 661176

Water and Sewerage ... 897467

Complaints ... 787111

Complaints (directory assistance) ... 121

Overscas Calls ... 010230

Central Amman Telephone ... 623101

Repairs ... 661101

Abdali Telephone Repairs ... 771111

Jordan Television ... 774111

Water Authority ... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615

Electric Power ... 636381

Company ... 06-53200

RJ Flight Information ... 06-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport ... 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/33

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6

Aklich Maternity, J. Amn. 642411/2

Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362

Mulbas, J. Amman ... 636140

Palestine, Shmashani ... 664714

Shmeisat Hospital ... 669131

UJiversity Hospital ... 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital ... 666127/7

The Islamic, Abdali ... 6641



BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday meets with visiting British parliamentarians, Henry Billingham, and an accompanying delegation. The two sides reviewed British-Jordanian relations and current developments in the peace process. Dr. Majali discussed economic and cultural ties with Britain and outlined the Jordanian government's moves to modernise the public administration system and laws aimed at encouraging foreign investments. Earlier Wednesday, Dr. Majali visited

the Orphans Fund and was briefed by its director, Mohammad Kreishan, on plans for the development of the fund through investment in real estate and economic projects. The Orphans Fund, said Mr. Kreishan, plans to invest in construction projects in Aqaba where it has already purchased land from the Aqaba Regional Authority to set up housing units. Mr. Kreishan said that the fund also plans to set up buildings that could be rented to government offices and public institutions (Petra photo)

Finance Committee rejects amendments to tax law

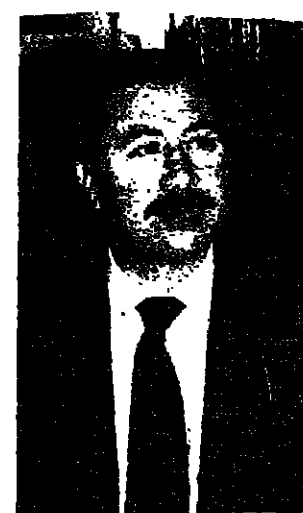
AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Finance Committee Wednesday rejected government-proposed amendments to the tax law as being far below the requirements needed to encourage investments and achieve development and social justice.

Speaking after a meeting at the House, between committee members and Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh to review the proposed amendments, Committee Chairman Ali Abul Ragheb said the amendments should aim at improving the lot of various social sectors, especially the middle class and the limited income groups, and it should help increase job opportunities, improve the standard of living and offer further incentives for investment.

When the 1994 budget law was discussed in Parliament, the committee demanded that the government come up with an integrated taxation package entailing a genuinely reformed taxation system that works to improve the living standards of the people, Mr. Abul Ragheb said.



Sami Gammoh



Abul Ragheb

He said when the government presented the draft sales tax law, to the House the committee reiterated its demand that the government present the reformed taxation system, added Mr. Abul Ragheb.

Jordan assumes a unique central geographical location in this region which currently witnesses strong competition, for investments, added Mr.

vestments, Mr. Abul Ragheb continued.

"We are determined to deal with the laws in light of the national interests and we will not pass any laws before we study them thoroughly, taking the economic situation and the requirements of the coming stage into full consideration, stressed, Mr. Abul Ragheb.

He said no laws would be approved before they win the approval of the economic institution so that justice and public interest can be safeguarded.

The local press last week published the draft amendments to the income tax law, but Income Department Director General Mansour Haddadin told the press. Times that the amendments are still being debated and the published plans were not final.

According to Mr. Abul Ragheb, Mr. Gammoh promised the committee that the government would study the draft amendments and will give them due consideration, taking into account the committee's views.

U.S. envoy stresses urgency of exploiting peace process advantages

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley W. Egan has urged Jordanian businesspersons to move quickly and exploit the advantages afforded by the "dramatic progress" made in recent months towards regional peace and security.

At the Jordan Trade Association's second biannual dinner of 1994 Tuesday evening, Mr. Egan, the guest speaker, addressed the issue of international and regional trade.

He suggested that the inevitable deliberation, and "wait and see" attitude of local businesses, attributable to the rapidity of developments in the peace process following the signing of the Washington Declaration by His Majesty King Hussein, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and U.S. Presi-

dent Bill Clinton on July 25, should be relinquished and replaced by pro-active and "strategic" planning with the private sector.

In response to the peace initiatives taken by King Hussein, the U.S. Congress has already forgiven a large amount of Jordan's debt to the United States. Within the next two years the sum of debt write-offs is expected to reach \$700 million, said the ambassador.

Other Jordanian creditors have been encouraged by President Clinton to follow suit or to, at least, reschedule the debts, he added.

According to Mr. Egan, by lessening the huge burden of Jordan's debt, obstacles hampering growth, the private sector and foreign investors will be removed, and foreign exchange reserves should increase, given the sound basis of the country's

economy, infrastructure, telecommunications system and educational levels.

Highlighting the involvement of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jordanian business affairs to aid economic growth and the generate foreign exchange reserves, Mr. Egan pointed to the agency's support of the balance of payments as the size of the public sector is reduced and the private sector increases; its technical assistance to the Industrial Development Bank and the Chamber of Industry enabling them to offer consultancy services to the business community; its buttressing of the development of the tourism industry and its co-financing of specialised training for private sector entities in the U.S.

In addition, the Export-Import Bank now includes long-term loans and guaran-

tee programmes to encourage Jordanian/American business partnerships, Mr. Egan said.

Although several "of America's largest corporations are looking for new opportunities here" and "at least four joint ventures" between U.S. and Jordanian companies have been established this year, Mr. Egan said, the disincentives for foreign investors, presented in the form of stringent government investment laws, are numerous.

Another deterrent for foreign investors in the "unauthorised duplication of computer software, audio and video cassettes and pharmaceutical patents." For although the Jordanian government has strict laws prohibiting this form of industrial theft, stronger enforcement is required, said Mr. Egan.

Still, he said he was delighted with the intentions of

the Royal Commission for Modernisation and Development to create "the right economic conditions and a suitable climate to attract investment."

The U.S. has also been participating with the "Trilateral Economic Committee, which concentrates on four areas of significance to the economies of Jordan and Israel: trade and banking, development of the Jordan Rift Valley, tourism and highly technical civil aviation.

JTA member Samih Darwazeh, chairman of the board of directors of Al Hikmah Pharmaceutical Company, commented on the ambassador's speech and agreed that Jordanian businesses should act with urgency to corner a section of U.S. market. He stressed the importance of inviting and encouraging American investment to enhance the Kingdom's economy.

Police search for arsonists in school fire

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police in Jabal Lofeh are searching for an arsonist/who Tuesday afternoon reportedly vandalised Abdul Rahman Al Ghafeki School and set its cafeteria on fire, police and school sources said Wednesday.

According to the school's principal, Abdul Rahman Saoud, "someone managed to dig a hole in the wooden wall of the prefabricated building," entered the school, started searching teacher's drawers then set the school's cafeteria on fire.

Mr. Saoud told the Jordan Times that "probably" the perpetrators thought there was money on the school's premises since the school is supported by donations, and "when they did not find any money

anywhere they set the room on fire in anger."

Luckily, Mr. Saoud added, the Civil Defence extinguished the fire before it spread to other parts of the two-story building.

None of the 350 students who attend the school were hurt in the incident, Mr. Saoud said, adding that the fire occurred after school hours.

He said the school management was unable to determine whether anything was missing from the contents of the room were totally burned.

Police reports indicated that a small gas stove was used to start the fire in the cafeteria. The report said that the arsonists took the stove from the teacher's room, placed it in the cafeteria and lit a fire. Mr. Saoud said that the

students who were cleaning the area after the fire found rubber gloves near the hole in the wall.

He said, the intruder/s might have used them so that no finger prints would be found on the gas stove.

Eyewitnesses told the Jordan Times Wednesday that they saw a young man in his early twenties roaming around the school with an iron bar. Other witnesses said they actually saw a young man digging the whole in the wall.

"I don't believe it is sabotage by any of the students, it was simply someone in need of money and thought he would find it in our school," Mr. Saoud said.

Police sources told the Jordan Times that they are still investigating the incident and that they are questioning the eyewitnesses.

Children's song festival opens 12 scores compete for Cairo music event

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Balloons, flowers and children wearing coloured Mickey Mouse and other Walt Disney character costumes embroidered the road leading to the entrance of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) to receive Her Royal Highness Princess Zein at the opening of the first Jordanian Festival of Children's Song Tuesday evening.

Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture, Mohammad Amaireh opened the festival by thanking Princess Zein for attending and said that education, with its variety of dimensions, such as music, singing, painting and literature, is an essential tool in building the society.

"The aim of the festival is to discover local creativity in order to improve it for the sake of educating children," Mr. Amaireh had said earlier at a press conference announcing the festival.

"Through poetry, music and singing we hope to build a distinguished children's education flavoured with national and regional understanding," Mr. Amaireh added.

Arab musician's collaboration will help raise the level of the children's song in Jordan and the Arab World, according to Mr. Amaireh.

Of the 130 songs (mostly lyrics only), 12 compositions were selected to compete to take part in the Third Arab Music Festival to be held in Cairo in October.

The 12 songs, which were

performed by several Jordanian children, were simple in language, but full of meaning — they called for love of Jordan, its people, nature and history.

Al Manhal International School's eight-member choral, and the Haya Arts Centre's Debka Group, took turns performing with a group of eight youngsters chosen to sing the competing songs.

The songs performed included: The Festival Anthem, Jordan's Child, Field Birds, World of Childhood, My Yellow Bird, You Travelling Clouds, My Country, Sway Swas Dahnounch, This is My Country, Thanks, The Whole World is Happy and My Country's Flag.



Children Tuesday evening sing and dance Festival of Children's Song (Photo by at the opening of the First Jordanian Youssef Al 'Allan)

position was interesting, but their lyrics were "70% convincing," according to Mr. Amaireh.

Festival organisers planned to present the same performance for the public on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Three Arab music

pioneers including renowned Iraqi musician Munir Bashir, the secretary general of the Arab Academy of Music of the Arab League, Egyptian Rasha Hafid, the art consultant of the Cairo Opera House, and Syrian Ilham Abu Su'oud, the first

teacher of musical education in Syria, in addition to Kifah Fakhouri, director of the National Music Conservatory of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and other Jordanian musicians participated in a symposium held Wednesday at the conference auditorium.

WHAT'S GOING ON

SONG FESTIVAL

★ Children's song festival at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

★ Field trip organised by the Friends of Archaeology (FOA) to Madaba, Makawar, Khirbet Iskandar on Friday at 9:00 a.m. Departure will be from the FOA centre by private cars.

FILMS

★ Spanish film entitled "Amantes" at the Spanish Cultural Centre on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.
★ Film entitled "Five Came Back" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

ANNUAL CONCERT

★ Annual concert displaying Circassian folklore entitled "The Last Knight" by Al Jeel Al Jadid Club at the club's premises, Jabal Amman, 7th Circle on Thursday and Friday at 8:30 p.m.

Lecture

★ Lecture in Arabic by Sudanese artist Rashad Selim entitled "Valleys and Borders" (accompanied with slides) at Ab'ad Art Gallery on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 819861).

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists Sa'd Al Ta'i, Talal Issa and Mahdi Al Assadi at Al 'Ain Art Gallery (Tel. 644451).

CORRECTION

The news in brief item on this page yesterday concerning the switch over to winter time should have read: Clocks will be turned by one hour on Friday, September 16 at midnight.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma visits women's unions

IRBID (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday attended a major festival in Irbid organised by women's unions in the governorates of Irbid, Balqa and Mafraq to express their support for His Majesty King Hussein's policies on the domestic and external levels. Apart from the women speakers at the rally, Irbid Governor Fayez Abbadi delivered an address outlining the women's union's programmes. The festival included national dances and singing performed by local troupes followed by a meeting between the princess and members of women's unions in the three governorates. Princess Basma voiced appreciation of these union's services to the local communities.

Royal Jordanian asks to resume Kuwait flights — paper

KUWAIT (R) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) has asked permission to resume flights to Kuwait for the first time since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, a newspaper reported on Wednesday. Kuwait has not yet replied to the request made in a telex from the airline to Kuwait's General Directorate for Civil Aviation, Al-Anba newspaper reported. Aviation officials were not available for comment.

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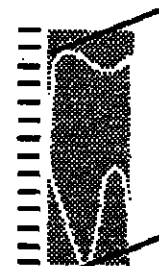
Clinic Opening

Dr. Vasken Bilemjian
UCLA / Boston University Graduate

Announces The Opening Of His
State - Of - The - Art Clinic For The
Practice Of
Cosmetic & General Dentistry

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- AMERICAN ACADEMY OF COSMETIC DENTISTRY.
- ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY.
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هنا عند الأصل

U.K. cuts N. Irish security

BELFAST (R) — Britain announced Wednesday it has reduced Northern Ireland "security levels," a week after IRA guerrillas called a ceasefire in a war against British rule of the province.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew said: "Certain things are not in place that were." He did not amplify what that meant in terms of troop and police strength.

The cryptic statement coincided with a visit to the Irish Republic by U.S. Vice President Al Gore to boost momentum in the week-old Irish peace process, breaking a 25-year stalemate.

Sir Hugh Amess, head of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, worried many Protestants when he said last month that an Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceasefire would lead to a corresponding decrease in the number of British troops on the streets.

Sinn Féin, the Irish Republican Army's political wing, demanded last week that British troops be withdrawn from Catholic areas in Northern Ireland after the IRA announced a ceasefire. British troops often patrol jointly with police.

The London government has come under pressure from Dublin to respond to the IRA truce, amid misgivings about its permanency.

Mr. Gore flew to Ireland Wednesday to put Ameri-

can diplomatic muscle behind peace moves in Northern Ireland.

He arrived in Shannon for a 30-minute briefing with Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds on Tuesday's historic talks between the Dublin government and Sinn Féin. Mr. Reynolds met Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams in Dublin.

Mr. Gore and Reynolds went immediately into private discussions.

Irish officials said Mr. Reynolds hoped that the talks with Mr. Gore would help keep up the momentum of his peace drive one week after the IRA announced a ceasefire in its war against Britain.

With its strong Irish-American lobby and millions of citizens of Irish extraction, the United States has warmly applauded the peace drive and welcomed the IRA ceasefire.

But the administration of President Bill Clinton has played down reports that it is ready to pump up to \$200 million as investment into Northern Ireland to underpin the peace process.

Mr. Reynolds hopes Washington will be generous with its cheque book once an overall peace settlement takes shape.

Irish officials denied that Mr. Reynolds had opened a rift with the British govern-

ment by meeting Mr. Adams, previously a political outcast in both Dublin and London.

"There are no real differences between us," said one senior Irish official. "Albert (Reynolds) is just determined to keep this thing going, to press ahead and build on what has happened."

The Irish and British governments are co-authors of a nine-month-old peace blueprint for Northern Ireland and have been working together in the search for a settlement there.

Mr. Reynolds' talks with Mr. Gore coincide with reports that the Clinton administration might grant Mr. Adams a second entry visa to brief the Irish-American community on the IRA ceasefire and Sinn Féin's own vision of how the peace process will unfold.

Such a visa would annoy the British government, which is refusing any contact with Mr. Adams until it is certain that the IRA ceasefire is permanent.

The British government was irritated that Mr. Adams was granted a visa earlier this year which allowed him to reap a media harvest in America when he is banned from British airwaves.

Mr. Reynolds said Tuesday in his government's first meeting with a Sinn Féin leader since the foundation of modern Ireland 71 years ago

that he was satisfied the ceasefire was "complete".

British officials fear that the IRA ceasefire may be a ploy to put pressure on the government, with Dublin acting as an unwitting intermediary, to sharpen the Anglo-Irish peace plan.

They fear that Mr. Adams may be trying to manoeuvre the government into putting pressure on Northern Ireland's Protestant majority to accept a dilution of their British status or eventual unification with the Irish Republic.

Ian Paisley, the most hard-line Protestant politician in the province, was asked to leave Prime Minister John Major's London office Tuesday after a brief and stormy meeting.

Rev. Paisley sought cast-iron assurances that there was no secret plan to "sell out" Northern Ireland to the predominantly Catholic Irish Republic, something Britain says it would not do.

The Anglo-Irish plan says Britain would not object to Northern Ireland merging with the country from which it was partitioned seven decades ago, providing a majority in the province agreed.

Mr. Reynolds said Tuesday to convene a national forum for peace and reconciliation, an umbrella meeting of all shades of Irish political and religious opinion.

Seoul concerned over U.S.-N. Korea ties

SEOUL (R) — South Korea, wary of improving ties between Communist North Korea and the United States, said Wednesday that Washington should not exchange liaison offices with Pyongyang before inter-Korean relations improved.

A spokesman at the Unification Ministry accused North Korea of trying to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington and slandering South Korean President Kim Young-Sam with abusive language.

"In these circumstances, the United States should not open its liaison office in Pyongyang," the spokesman said.

The United States has, in ongoing talks with North Korea over its suspected nuclear arms programme, raised the prospect of diplomatic recognition in return for Pyongyang's cooperation on the issue.

Washington and Pyongyang are due to resume working-level talks this Saturday in the North Korean capital and Berlin.

The Pyongyang meeting will discuss technical details of proposed liaison offices the Berlin talks will focus on the nuclear issue.

South Korean Unification Minister Lee Hong-Koo told reporters Wednesday that the row over North Korea's nuclear programme could not be resolved if South Korea was left out of the talks.

"Problems on the Korean peninsula should be resolved between the South and North," Mr. Lee said.

He hinted strongly that Seoul and Washington were at odds over how to resolve the question of North Korea's suspected development of nuclear weapons.

"We are looking at the North Korean nuclear programme within the framework of South-North ties but there are opinions the United States is too much engrossed in the nuclear problem," Mr. Lee said.

He said Seoul was ready to help North Korea improve ties with the United States if the North agreed to reopen dialogue with South Korea and accept full inspections of its nuclear facilities.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo is in the United States to coordinate policy on North Korea. He is expected to stress that Seoul will reject any deal to upgrade the North's nuclear-power industry unless Pyongyang used a South Korean reactor.

Giving North Korea modern nuclear reactors is a key part of a U.S.-North Korean deal agreed in Geneva last month.

U.S. officials say any concrete agreement on the liaison offices is conditional on an overall accord on North Korea's nuclear programme.

But there have been grow-

ing concerns in Seoul that Washington and Pyongyang are moving quickly to mend relations in the absence of progress in inter-Korean relations.

North Korea's official Rodong Sinmun Monday criticised Mr. Han's trip to the United States as an attempt to interfere in improving ties between Washington and Pyongyang.

"The DPRK-U.S. talks are bilateral talks, to all intents and purposes, and the South Korean authorities have no justification or qualification to poke their nose into the talks," it said.

In a separate development, Kim Jong-Il, eldest son of North Korea's late President Kim Il-Sung, will be named state president Friday, the anniversary of the country's foundation, a leading South Korean newspaper said Wednesday.

The Chosun Ilbo, quoting an unidentified Japanese source, said in a report from Beijing the younger Kim would then be named head of the ruling Workers' Party on Oct. 10, the anniversary of the formation of the Communist Party.

The source, who visited Pyongyang recently, told Chosun he saw artists at Pyongyang's Mansudae Arts Centre making huge portraits of Kim Jong-Il and banners reading "Installation of dear leader comrade Kim Jong-Il as state president."

City fire traps Sydney workers

SYDNEY (R) — Nine people were rescued from a blazing Sydney office building Wednesday and six were taken to hospital suffering burns and smoke inhalation.

Firemen wearing breathing apparatus checked the smoke-filled building in Sydney's central business district for people who were trapped, a New South Wales Fire Brigade spokeswoman said.

Initial media reports said 20 people had been trapped in the 14-storey building in York Street, but the spokeswoman said they had been accounted for.

"Nine people were rescued from the building. All suf-

fered smoke inhalation and some burns," the spokeswoman told Reuters.

"We have no confirmation of the number of people trapped. They are checking the remainder of the building," she said.

A Reuters photographer at the scene said she saw a number of distressed people behind the building's fifth-floor windows as firemen battled the fire.

The fire started on the second floor of the New South Wales Bowlers' Club building and quickly spread. Five floors of the building were blackened by the fire and smoke.

Firemen said they did not know the cause of the fire.

Office workers on the third floor said they fled the building when smoke billowed up the elevator shaft.

Accountant Ron Neems said there were no alarms to alert occupants of the fire. "Nothing activated, there was nothing to say you must get out... It was up to individual people to get out," Mr. Neems told reporters. "I went out to the men's toilet and I smelt smoke."

"I told my boss and by the time we got out the whole foyer was filled with smoke," he said.

U.S. Air Force fights to save missile

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Air Force Tuesday ripped the top secret wrapping from a new radar-evading cruise missile in hopes of saving the \$13.3 billion programme from the defence budget axe.

Air Force officials released a test flight videotape of the 14-foot (4 metres) standoff attack missile being developed for the air force and navy. It has a range of over 100 miles (161-km) and has been tested against ground targets twice this year from air force and navy fighters.

The air force held a highly-unusual press conference at the Pentagon to release details of what was previously a highly-classified "black programme."

The U.S. military wants to build more than 4,100 of the Stealthy conventional-warhead missiles at a cost of over \$2 million each. They would help protect aircraft carriers because they could be launched far from heavily-defended targets.

But the programme, including research and development, would cost a total of \$13.3 billion and it is in trouble in Congress as defence budgets are slashed.

The army has already withdrawn from the so-called tri-service standoff attack missile (TSSAM) programme, but air force Brigadier General Richard Roeloff told Tuesday's press conference that the air force and navy planned to go ahead if funding is provided.

The missile is powered by a turbofan motor and is guided to its target by a computer brain.

OSLO (AP) — Somebody involved in the Middle East peace process is bound to be a hot prospect for the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize to be announced next month.

But even if the secretive Nobel Committee decided to honour Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who would they pick up of the many people engaged in bringing about a peace agreement?

FLO leader Yasser Arafat? Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, or Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, or both? The Norwegians who arranged secret talks that led to a draft accord on limited Palestinian self-rule?

As usual, the five-member peace prize committee is working in deep secret to pick a winner for the 7 million Swedish kroner (\$990,000) prize, which will be announced in Oslo on Oct. 14.

The Oslo-based committee won't even say who is on a list of 132 nominees, including 35 organisations, much less whether the prize reflects Middle East peace efforts.

"I'll just have to say what I say every year. It will be



This Sept. 4, photo shows Zabidi Mohammad, Islamic sect Al Arqam, speaking at a news conference (AFP photo)

Malaysian sect's legal adviser detained

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — The legal advisor for an outlawed Sufi sect that has filed a series of suits against the Malaysian government has been detained by police, an official of the group said Wednesday.

Zabidi Mohammad, legal adviser to the Al Arqam sect, was picked up late Tuesday after meeting friends. He was taken to a police station in Kajang, a small town outside Kuala Lumpur, said the official, who did not want to be named.

Al Arqam's leader, Asaari Mohammad, 57, has been held at police headquarters under the country's Internal Security Act (ISA) since his arrest Friday on the Malaysian-Thai border.

Under the security law Mr. Asaari can be detained without being charged or brought to trial for up to two years.

The sect official said police did not give any reason for Mr. Zabidi's detention, or whether he was being held under the ISA. Police did not immediately confirm the arrest.

Mr. Zabidi held a news conference Monday at the sect's commune outside Kuala Lumpur while a police helicopter hovered above.

He said Al Arqam was filing writs of habeas corpus seeking the release of those detained under the ISA.

He has also helped file a series of defamation suits against government officials, including Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, for

accusing the sect of, among other things, turning its women into "sex slaves."

Mr. Mahathir said police had the right to detain Mr. Asaari and others to facilitate investigations into the group, banned last month as a "deviantist" cult and a threat to public order.

"It is up to the movement's followers to challenge the matter in court," the Malaysian News Agency, Bernama, quoted him as saying late Tuesday on the resort island of Langkawi.

Foreign followers of Al Arqam have been ordered to leave the country immediately or face action, the Immigration Department said Wednesday.

Public relations officer Aris Chonin also said foreign Al Arqam followers would not be allowed into the country, even with a valid passport and visa. Some 13 foreign followers of the sect have been denied entry since Aug. 28.

Mr. Aris advised Malaysian Al Arqam followers who were overseas to return immediately before their passports were invalidated.

The sect has some 15 overseas branches.

Two Malaysian states, Pahang and Kelantan, announced they were taking action to remove Al Arqam singboards and other advertising logos from the group's offices and communes, the Bernama reported Wednesday.

A Thai human-right group

on Wednesday condemned the arrest in Malaysia of members of Al Arqam.

Thailand's Union of Civil Liberty (UCL), in an open letter to Mr. Mahathir, appealed for the immediate release of the Al Arqam sect members, including Mr. Asaari.

The call from the UCL came as criticism mounted over Thailand's role in the expulsion of the seven Al Arqam members.

The UCL said the arrest of the seven was an infringement of internationally accepted human-rights norms.

"According to international human-rights principles and freedom of religion and worship... the authorities have no right or justification to interfere in the religious affairs of this group," the letter said.

The Al Arqam members' had their passports, revoked by Malaysia and were then seized by Thai officials in a northern Thai province Friday.

Mr. Asaari, who had lived in self-imposed exile in Thailand since 1988 when Malaysia first banned his teachings, was taken away alone, flown to southern Thailand and driven to the Thai-Malaysian border.

The UCL demanded the unconditional release of Mr. Asaari and his followers.

Meanwhile, a dean at Bangkok's prestigious Thammasat University joined a chorus of criticism over the expulsion of the Al Arqam members.

Opposition leader killed in Mexico

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — An opposition political party said one of its leaders was shot and killed Tuesday and another detained in southern Chiapas state.

Both leaders belong to the Democratic Revolutionary Party, whose supporters say their gubernatorial candidate was robbed of victory by fraud in last month's election.

The killing and detention came a day before mediators were to meet to try to reopen peace talks between the government and Indian rebels who staged a New Year's Day uprising in the impoverished state.

Roberto Hernandez Paniagua was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen on his way to teach school in the southern town of Jaltenango, the Democratic Revolutionary Party said in a statement.

Also Tuesday, Enrique Murias was forcibly detained in Mapastepec, "presumably by the State Judicial Police," the party said. His whereabouts were unknown.

Police in Chiapas said they knew nothing about the killing or the disappearance.

Party spokesman Francisco Mayo, speaking by telephone from the state capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez, blamed Mr. Hernandez' killing on the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which won elections last month for president and for governor of Chiapas.

Angry citizens in Chiapas prevented a helicopter carrying investigators from the state attorney general's office from landing. The only road leading to the town was blocked.

"There is a climate of desperation," Mayo said.

Democratic Revolutionary supporters have been staging protests throughout the state, accusing PRI of stealing the

Aug. 21 election.

Democratic Revolutionary Party candidate Amado Avendaño Figueroa has vowed he will take office on Dec. 8, even though the State Electoral Commission gave him only 34.1 per cent of the vote.

He declared Eduardo Robledo Rincon, 47, of the ruling party the governor elected with 51.2 per cent, but Democratic Revolutionary supporters insist there was massive fraud.

At least 145 people were killed in fighting when the Zapatista National Liberation Army of impoverished peasants rose up in arms on Jan. 4. A ceasefire was called 12 days later, but peace negotiations remain deadlocked.

Roman Catholic Bishop Samuel Ruiz and the government's peace commissioner Jorge Madrazo Cuellar were to meet here Wednesday to discuss how to restart peace talks with the rebels.

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Mideast peace dominates speculation on Nobel Prize

Menachem Begin for their peace efforts, only to see Israel invade Lebanon a few years later.

Although the committee declines comment on past prize winners, one member Kare Kristiansen, once said Begin might not have been honoured if the decision had been delayed.

In recent years, the committee has risked honouring active politicians to encourage human rights and democracy, even in unstable situations.

In 1990, then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev won the prize for his efforts to bring down the iron curtain, a few months later, his government ordered a military crackdown in the Baltics that left many dead.

Last year, the prize went to South Africa's Nelson Mandela and then-President F.W. De Klerk for their efforts to end apartheid, even though violence was still raging.

"One categories of prize winners has been active politicians. I would not expect that to change," said Mr. Lundestad.

In his 1895 will, Alfred

Nobel of Sweden endowed the Nobel Prizes with part of his fortune from inventing dynamite. The peace prize is always presented in Oslo on Dec. 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death.

The prizes for literature, economics, physics, chemistry and physiology or medicine are awarded on the same day in Stockholm, Sweden.

Nobel said the peace prize should go to those encouraging fraternity between nations and arranging peace talks. That's exactly what Norwegians did.

Terje Larsen, now U.N. deputy secretary general for the Middle East, and his wife Mona Juul, of Norway's Foreign Ministry, arranged the months of secret talks between the PLO and Israel led to a peace agreement signed on the White House lawn a year ago.

On Aug. 30, Mr. Larsen and Ms. Juul were honoured in Ireland with the Tipperary Peace Prize for their efforts.

But Mr. Larsen has said he wants four others to get this year's Nobel Peace Prize: Rabin, Peres, Arafat and PLO advisor Abu Mazen.

Italian wins record jackpot on slot machine

VENICE, Italy (R) — A 50-year-old Italian won a record billion lire (\$650,000) jackpot after staking just 15,000 lire (\$10) at a Venice casino slot machine. Casino officials said the jackpot win, which had not come up for more than a year, was probably the biggest to date on a slot machine in Italy. They declined to identify the lucky punter, who had been waiting to play at a roulette table around midnight Sunday when he decided to try his luck on a "dive for gold" machine. With his third 5,000 lire (\$3.30) token, the winning combination appeared amid flashing lights, electronic fanfares and the general astonishment of other players. He then calmly collected a cheque from the management for his windfall and left the casino. "But he'll be back, he's one of our regular clients," a casino employee said. The machine's jackpot, which is cumulative, returned to 150 million lire (\$100,000).

China cracks down on porno publications

BEIJING (R) — China has launched a crackdown on pornography and publications that defame the country's leaders or cause tension between races, the Xinhua News Agency said Wednesday. The People's Supreme Procuratorate issued a notice identifying key targets of the crackdown as "ringleaders of such activities or those selling pornographic items to minors," the agency said. Others include those who "illegally publish and print publications which defame party and government leaders, intentionally create friction between nationalities and leak state secrets," it said. While China maintains its numerous minority peoples live in harmony with ethnic Han Chinese, officials are always on the alert for separatist trouble, particularly in sensitive regions such as Tibet and Xinjiang, home of a Turkic people. The procuratorate, which investigates and prosecutes cases, ordered its local branches to crack down on the smuggling, production, sale and circulation of pornographic books, videotapes, films and other illegal publications, saying they were "rampant" in some parts of the country. Many publishing houses have turned to printing sensational books and magazines for profit under market-oriented economic reforms.

Court: Late singer was father of daughter

PARIS (AP) — Almost three years after the death of singer-actor Yves Montand, a court ruled that he was the father of a young woman who, along with her mother, has battled for such recognition since 1989. Court proceedings began five years ago aimed at establishing that Aureo Drossart, now 19, was Montand's daughter. Her mother is Anne Fleurance, an actress who was Montand's friend during the 1970s. Montand, 70 when he died in November 1991, had denied that Aureo was his daughter. His only acknowledged child was a son, Valentin, born to his companion, Carole Amiel, in December 1988.

Grave robbers snatch 3,000-year-old Taiwan coffin

TAIPEI (R) — Grave robbers, possibly armed with a crane, have stolen a 3,000-year-old carved stone coffin from a riverbank in southeastern Taiwan, a Taitung County official said Wednesday. "We found the coffin was stolen, probably one month ago, and officials and police are investigating," Chen Che-Nan, a county official in charge of protection of relics, told Reuters by telephone. "We hope to recover it." The stone sarcophagus, weighing between two and three tonnes, was among 24 relics listed for protection in the county, he said. "The coffin is too heavy for people to lift. It must have been removed with a crane or some other machine," Mr. Chen said. The coffin, believed to be more than 3,000 years old, was carved with drainage channels on the inside and breast-like designs outside, he said. He was unable to give the value of the huge coffin, one of three found in southeastern Taitung.



HONEYMOON AT EURO-DISNEY: Euro-Disneyland in Paris, where they have been staying in the Sleeping Beauty Suite of the Disneyland Hotel (AFP photo)

Goma reels under refugee influx

GOMA, Zaire (Agencies) — Eight weeks after a million Rwandans flooded across the border, the Zairean lakeside resort of Goma is still reeling from the shock of what aid workers say is the largest, fastest refugee flight in history.

Some 850,000 Rwandans, more than four times the population of Goma, are housed around the town in camps that resemble small cities.

The epidemics that have killed 50,000 refugees have also affected hundreds of Zaireans, though local authorities are unable to say how many have died.

The town's trees have been chopped down for firewood and around the refugee camp there are huge areas of tree stumps where the tropical forest has been felled for cooking.

"Goma was a town with a lot of greenery and flowers — everything was destroyed," North Kivu regional director Athanas Kahanya Kimuha Tassi told Reuters Tuesday.

The town of 200,000 people where President Mobutu Sese Seko keeps a lakeside residence lies in the shadow of the Mount Nyiragongo volcano which can be seen glowing red on clear nights. Experts say there is no short-term risk of an eruption to add to Goma's woes.

Meanwhile the Tutsi-led government sent troops to begin taking control of southwestern Rwanda, where 500,000 Hutus have sought U.N. protection after feared reprisals for wartime

massacres.

The new government, trying to consolidate its July victory, has promised it will not tolerate reprisals against Hutus for the slaughter of an estimated 500,000 people, mostly civilians from Rwanda's Tutsi minority.

But there have been reports of retaliation against Hutus in other parts of the country, and U.N. officials worry that frightened Hutus in the southwest might flee to already crowded refugee camps in neighbouring Zaire.

In Brussels, the monitoring group Human Rights Watch said Tuesday it feared revenge killings by soldiers loyal to the new government have claimed hundreds of lives and urged the United Nations to take action to prevent deaths.

Alison Des Forges, an investigator for the group, told reporters that three mass graves had been found north of the central city of Garamba packed with hundreds of bodies. Many had their hands tied and had apparently been beaten to death while the area was used as a military camp by soldiers of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front army, she said.

Ms. Des Forges said there was evidence supporting reports that hundreds of people were killed near a veterinary school in the southern city of Butare. The RPF has sealed off the school and denied entry to journalists and rights workers, she said.

In Zaire Tuesday, soldiers of the defeated Hutu govern-

ment said they would move to a new refugee camp as part of a U.N. effort to separate them from the general refugee population around the border town Goma.

The soldiers, who harbour hopes of making the majority Hutus the dominant ethnic group again, have been accused of intimidating and sometimes killing refugees who want to return home.

The new Tutsi-led government, installed by the victorious Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels in July, sent about 150 soldiers Tuesday into a protection zone set up by French troops in Rwanda's southwestern corner as a haven for Hutus fleeing the rebel forces.

The French withdrew from the zone last month, leaving control of the area to a reluctant United Nations. Tens of thousands of Hutus fleeing Tutsi reprisals fled into Zaire.

The United Nations estimates 480,000 displaced people remain within the zone, down from the peak of about 1.2 million.

When the French left, the new government said it would move slowly to exert control over the zone. But it said it would send civilians in first.

It was not clear what would happen to Hutu militiamen in the refugee camps who also have intimidated refugees wanting to return. The United Nations estimated the number of militiamen in the camps at 50,000 while Mr. Bizimana said there were

70,000.

The exiled Hutu leaders do not want the refugees to return and help the new government in Kigali rebuild the country. It wants to use them as a bargaining chip in any negotiations with the Tutsi-led government in Rwanda and the leaders of Zaire.

The U.N. plan to shift the soldiers comes as U.N. officials prepare for a one-day registration operation for the hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees in six major and three smaller camps in the Goma area.

In a separate development, a Pentagon spokesman said Tuesday most of the 800 U.S. military men and women still assisting in the Rwandan relief effort could be withdrawn by the end of the month.

"It's something we're watching," Dennis Boxx told reporters at a Pentagon briefing, adding that no specific time has been set.

Asked about criticism that the United States hasn't done enough in the crisis, Mr. Boxx said the U.S. military has flown 900 airlift missions that put 17,000 tonnes of supplies into the refugee camps.

He said the Pentagon wants a smooth transition as U.S. duties are turned over to the United Nations and other organisations, which could affect the timing of the removal of U.S. forces.

At the height of U.S. involvement in early August, more than 2,000 Americans were in the region, Pentagon officials said.



One of the 200 unaccompanied Rwandan refugee children is fed in a crate at a church mission in Bukavu, Zaire. Over a million Rwandans have died during the inter-ethnic war

between the ruling Tutsi government and the deposed Hutus (AFP photo)

Washington warns Haiti to expect U.S. troops

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — The United States said Tuesday that American troops would be in Haiti soon — either to oust the military leaders or to restore order as part of a U.N. peacekeeping force if the generals leave voluntarily.

The military ousted Haiti's democratically-elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, three years ago and Washington has been pushing for the restoration of democracy ever since.

"American and international troops will be in Haiti and they will be here either subsequent to the departure of General (Raoul) Cedras or prior to the departure of General Cedras but they will be here," Stanley Schragger, the U.S. spokesman in Haiti, told reporters.

Lieutenant-General Cedras, Brigadier-General Philippe Biamby and head of police Colonel Joseph Michel Francois have defied a U.N.-backed threat of American military force to oust them if they do not step down.

"We have made it clear that the regime there is going to leave one way or another," Vice President Al Gore told NBC Television's Meet The Press Sunday.

Washington, which has called for the immediate departure of Gen. Cedras since he reneged on a deal to step down last year, has recently turned up the heat on the military leaders who seized power after the bloody 1991 coup which deposed Mr. Aristide.

It has said it would use massive force — about 10,000 troops — in any intervention to keep down casualties.

Mr. Schragger said an invasion was increasingly likely after several recent events which appeared to have hampered home the unwillingness of Haiti's military leaders to discuss stepping down.

"I think I should say a few words on what we perceive to be a new situation here — an increasing inevitability of some kind of an intervention," he said, citing the killing of a prominent Catholic priest, the failure of a U.N. mission to Santo Domingo and a visit by senior State Department officials to a conference of Caribbean states.

Suspected paramilitary forces gunned down Father Jean Marie Vincent, an ally to Mr. Aristide, on Aug. 28 in the first killing of a priest since 1985.

Several days later, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali declared diplomatic efforts dead after the failure of an envoy sent to the neighbouring Dominican Republic to arrange talks with Haiti's military leaders to discuss their departure.

Mr. Schragger said he did not know of any secret talks going on with Haitian rulers as the head of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Lee Hamilton suggested over the weekend.

Mr. Hamilton told CNN Saturday programme of some "secret activities" going on but declined to be specific.

Mr. Schragger emphasised that U.S. Defence and State Department officials were solid in supporting military action in Haiti if needed.

Kohl, challenger trade insults in parliamentary election showdown

BONN (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his challenger in the October election exchanged insults Wednesday in a stormy and rare parliamentary showdown.

Chancellor candidate Rudolf Scharping accused Mr. Kohl of cowardice, slander and lying. Mr. Kohl said Mr. Scharping's Social Democrats are incompetent and too cozy with the reformed East German Communists.

A day earlier, Mr. Kohl's party used its parliamentary majority to make Wednesday's session of the Bundestag, the lower house of parliament, the last one before the Oct. 16 election.

Mr. Scharping said Mr. Kohl arranged this to avoid another debate with him.

"You chicken out repeatedly. If you were really as confident as you seem, you would use every opportunity to have a debate," said the bearded Scharping.

Standing at the speaker's podium, Mr. Scharping held up a 1990 campaign poster in which Mr. Kohl's party pledged taxes would not be increased to finance German reunification.

Taxes have gone up for

virtually everyone since.

Mr. Scharping charged that as in 1990, Mr. Kohl is making campaign promises — such as increasing some social benefits — that he won't keep.

"You have five and a half weeks left," said Mr. Scharping, glowering at Mr. Kohl. "We will give you no opportunity to keep quiet about your true intentions."

After trailing Mr. Scharping at the start of the year, Mr. Kohl has passed his rival in public opinion polls. With little time left, the campaign is getting nasty.

If Mr. Kohl wins, he will be just two years away from equaling Konrad Adenauer's record for the longest-serving postwar chancellor: 14 years.

Exuding optimism, Mr. Kohl said he senses people's support for him during his campaign travels.

"When I travel across the country I hear people say 'we're glad you exist,'" the three-term chancellor told the Bundestag.

Mr. Kohl repeated a theme he has been stressing in virtually every campaign appearance of the past few weeks: That the Social Democrats would not turn down an alliance with re-

formed East German Communists if that was the only way to get a parliamentary majority.

The Social Democrats say that's untrue.

Mr. Scharping said Mr. Kohl is playing with fire by putting the Social Democrats and the reformed Communists in the same basket. This tactic, said Mr. Scharping, makes Germans less tolerant of left-thinking people.

"You are helping to create a poisoned political climate," Mr. Scharping said.

Mr. Kohl, whose address came just before Mr. Scharping's, accused the Social Democrats of hindering progress in technology and other fields by blocking the necessary legislation.

"The USA has 300 genetic research laboratories. We have four. We have four. We are losing ground," Mr. Kohl said.

Mr. Kohl said Germans have become more economically secure during his 12 years in office. He also defended plans to give tax breaks to new businesses.

"This has nothing to do with giving money to the rich," but meant to create new jobs," Mr. Kohl said.

Group wants talks on lifting Yugoslav sanctions

BERLIN (R) — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin said Wednesday the "contact group" on Bosnia would advise the United Nations Security Council to discuss ending sanctions against rump Yugoslavia.

Mr. Churkin told journalists after a "contact group" meeting that the five members — United States, Russia, Germany, Britain and France — agreed Belgrade should be pressed after deciding to block the Bosnian Serbs.

Meanwhile lifting a U.N. arms embargo on two of Bosnia's warring factions to punish the third for its refusal to yield land for peace would have dire consequences, the U.N. peacekeeping commander said in a published interview.

U.S. President Bill Clinton intends to ask the U.N. Security Council to exempt Bosnia's Muslims and Croats from the 1991 arms ban on rump Yugoslavia if Bosnian Serbs do not accept a big power peace plan by Oct. 15.

The plan, devised by a "contact group" made up of the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany was rejected by 96 per cent of Bosnian Serbs in a recent referendum.

General Sir Michael Rose, commander of U.N.

peacekeeping troops in Bosnia, said in a Croatian newspaper interview Wednesday that diluting the arms embargo would be disastrous for Bosnia's people.

U.N. soldiers now guarding mostly Muslim government enclaves from Serb attack and escorting U.N. aid convoys to trapped civilians would have to be withdrawn.

"It's impossible to judge all the consequences now. But there is the danger the U.N. will pull out of Bosnia, the worst solution for the population (at large)," Gen. Rose was quoted by the newspaper Slobodna Dalmacija as saying.

"A U.N. withdrawal would have terrible consequences for 2.7 million people (dependent on U.N. assistance)," he said.

"America has to take responsibility for the policy (supporting lifting of embargo). I cannot criticise the policy of a country which is such an important factor in the U.N."

"Whenever they inspect the situation on the ground, visitors from America realise how difficult the consequences would be," the British general told the daily.

Gen. Rose said removing the embargo would broaden the scope of the 29-month-old war, which has died down

this year to firefights along largely static front lines, and increases casualties and destruction.

"That is a road to (more) war, not to peace. There is a contingency plan (for a U.N. withdrawal) but I hope the situation is not dramatic yet," he said.

Bosnian Serbs have won control of 70 per cent of the country due largely to their huge advantage in tanks and artillery — an advantage locked into place by the embargo.

Senior U.S. diplomats held talks with Bosnian Muslim and Croat government leaders in Bosnia Monday to bolster the country's struggling new Muslim-Croat federation and discuss a possible lifting of the arms embargo.

U.S. pressure to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia has alarmed Britain and France, whose troops comprise the backbone of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Bosnia.

British, French and Russian peacekeepers say lifting the embargo would lead to all-out war and jeopardise their troops. All three nations, who wield a Security Council veto, have threatened to withdraw before that happens.

Mr. Clinton acknowledges the concerns of his contact

group partners, but is under heavy pressure from the U.S. Congress to aid Bosnia's government.

The United Nations suspended its humanitarian airlift into Sarajevo Wednesday after at least one U.N. aircraft was hit by small arms fire at the airport the day before.

"The humanitarian airlift has been suspended because of an incident yesterday with a U.N. Illyushin 76 that was hit in the right aft fuselage at the Sarajevo Airport," Peter Kessler, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said.

"This comes after a string of incidents in July and August that frequently interrupted the airlift. Sarajevo's cupboards are bare and we will resume aid flights as soon as conditions permit."

U.N. sources said shots were fired into the air as 12 aircraft landed at Sarajevo Airport Tuesday and that one and possibly two Illyushin 76s had been hit by small arms rounds.

Eleven artillery rounds were fired inside the Sarajevo heavy weapons exclusion zone Tuesday.

It was against this backdrop of military activity that Pope John Paul cancelled Thursday's planned visit to the Bosnian capital.

his people to their human limits.

"It is difficult to endure all this and be slammed for an imaginary radicalism when fascism is there to be seen, fascism which is much more dangerous than any radical fundamentalism or Islam, whatever, that might come in Bosnia," he said.

"The message is out — as long as you have enough tanks, arms, you can kill your neighbour and take his land. If he is Muslim then so be it, it will facilitate everything."

The Bosnian prime minister, barely glancing at his notes, said international silence over Bosnia and over what he called massacres in Indian-ruled Kashmir was a crime.

"They will not kill us all, ever, so cooperate with us or else there will be a message to Muslims and others that it's a free-for-all," he said. Muslims conscious of their identity might conclude that they should "arm up and defend themselves."

"Will it be cooperation or confrontation?" he asked saying Western civilisation must choose because it had the upper hand.

Muslims had extended a "hand of goodwill" on Bosnia, Kashmir and the Palestine issue, but had been ignored or misunderstood.

Mr. Silajdzic bitterly criticised the continued arms embargo on Bosnia and talk by the big power contact group of easing economic sanctions on what remains of Yugoslavia as a reward for its support for the latest international peace plan for Bosnia.

Bhutto urges lifting of arms embargo on Bosnia

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Wednesday called for the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia's Muslim government and said Muslims were the victims of aggression all over the world.

Ms. Bhutto urged Islamic foreign ministers meeting here to devise a common strategy on the conflicts not only in Bosnia but Afghanistan and Kashmir.

"Muslims are the main victims of aggression all over the world," Ms. Bhutto told the opening session of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting.

"Yet our tolerant religion is portrayed in the West as the harbinger of hate."

Ms. Bhutto, flanked by Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, a special guest at the conference, called for an end to the arms embargo on Bosnia, imposed as part of U.N. sanctions designed to stop weapons reaching all sides in the former Yugoslavia.

"This illegal, one-sided embargo should be lifted," she said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has vowed to ask the U.N. Security Council to lift the arms embargo by Oct. 15 if the Bosnian Serbs do not agree to the latest international peace plan.

Ms. Bhutto also demanded that alleged Serbian war criminals be tried in international tribunals and accused the world of standing idly by while Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, was destroyed.

The 51-nation OIC has in the past called for the lifting of the embargo and stronger

international action against what it sees as Serbian aggression against Bosnian Muslims.

Turning to Pakistan's dispute with India over divided Kashmir, Ms. Bhutto said the Kashmiris should be able to vote in a U.N. plebiscite on whether they want to join India or Pakistan.

She said she was sure they would choose Pakistan, but said Islamabad would accept any result of a U.N.-supervised vote.

Ms. Bhutto said U.N. resolutions had been applied in Kuwait and South Africa and were the basis for progress in solving the Arab-Israeli conflict. Existing U.N. resolutions should also be applied to ensure self-determination for the Kashmiris.

India would be unable to suppress the four-year-old revolt against its rule in the two-thirds of Kashmir it controls. "This is a battle that will not end, that cannot end," she said.

India, which regards Kashmir as an integral part of its territory, accuses Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri militants. Islamabad denies the charge.

Ms. Bhutto said renewed fighting in Afghanistan had tarnished the victory of Afghan Mujahideen over Soviet occupiers and urged the OIC to promote reconciliation among the warring factions.

A peace mission to Afghanistan by OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Ghabid in July failed to make headway.

The OIC meeting, the first since Islamic foreign minis-

ters gathered in Karachi in April 1993, was due to end Friday.

India has barred a Muslim group that opposes New Delhi's rule in Kashmir from attending the OIC ministerial meeting, separatists were quoted Wednesday as saying.

The All-Party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference (APHC) said the Home Ministry informed it Tuesday that its representatives would not be allowed to travel to Islamabad to attend the conference, news reports said.

The APHC includes more than 30 political, religious and militant groups waging a separatist campaign against Indian rule in Kashmir.

Mr. Silajdzic, in an impassioned speech to the Islamic foreign ministers, said Wednesday the West had chosen between cooperation and confrontation with Islam.

Failure to enforce an international legal order meant sending a message to hundreds of millions of young Muslims that violence is the only way to achieve their "place in the sun."

Bosnians, he said, had achieved a "victory of good over evil" at the cost of losing 200,000 dead, including 17,000 children, and seeing their country devastated.

Despite a U.N. arms embargo, which had "brought nothing but misery, death and destruction," his compatriots had fought back against the Serbs without returning their tactics in kind.

"Our hands are clean," he told the OIC ministers.

Mr. Silajdzic said hardship and injustice were stretching

1st Cuban refugees arrive in Panama

PANAMA CITY (AP) — The first of 10,000 Cuban refugees to be airlifted from the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Panama arrived Tuesday, denouncing President Fidel Castro.

"I am free of Cuba. I feel great," said Cecilia Ochoa La Rosa, shortly after she and her husband and 9-year-old daughter landed in Panama.

Some of the refugee men shouted "down with Fidel Castro" as they disembarked from two U.S. C-130 Hercules transport planes Tuesday afternoon.

The 100 Cubans, who had been housed in the steamy Guantanamo tent city, volunteered for the transfer, according to U.S. Marine Lt. Pete Mitchell.

The transfer, however, didn't make a dent in legions of refugees living in a tent city on the base.

At roll call Tuesday, 23,331 Cubans were being housed at Guantanamo and 3,720 more were en route, fresh from being picked up in the Straits of Florida between Cuba's north coast and the United States.

In addition to the Cubans who have been picked on rafts and boat heading for Florida, Guantanamo is also home to 14,200 Haitian boat people, according to Pentagon spokesman Dennis Boxx.

In Panama, four fenced-in

detention camps are being built on U.S.-controlled territory beside the Panama Canal to accommodate 10,000 Cubans, Mr. Boxx said.

"We are ready to accept Cubans now," said U.S. Brig. Gen. James Wilson, commander of the Joint Task Force that has been building the tent camps seven miles (12 kms) west of Panama City in hot, humid jungle terrain.

The Panama government has allowed the refugees to be housed for six months as a humanitarian gesture.

The U.S. government expects it will spend \$40 million to build and operate the four camps for the next four months.

Gen. Wilson said the first camp at the Empire Range Complex, a former firing range, was complete. Two others are nearly complete and a fourth will be finished by Sept. 15.

The camps are designed to help ease the crunch at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, on the southeast tip of Cuba.

Meanwhile, the Cayman Islands announced that it will begin sending back some of the hundreds of Cuban refugees who have fled their Communist homeland and sought haven there.

"Cayman cannot continue to accommodate such migrants," a government statement released late Monday

said. "The Cayman Islands government has no alternative but to repatriate all those classified as being economic migrants."

The government of the British territory began screening some of the 395 refugees Monday, the statement said.

The statement didn't say when or how the territory would repatriate the Cubans. "It's much too early to say that," government spokeswoman Patricia Ebanks said.

Meanwhile Cuba's chief negotiator in talks with the United States on the refugee crisis said Havana can be "very flexible" and hinted that a deal could be struck for a limited migration accord.

Washington is willing to expand immigration in return for Cuba's promise to halt the unruly flood of its destitute and discontented citizens. But Cuba won't curb the exodus without getting something in return.

As the talks sputtered into a sixth day Wednesday, former Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon gave few details of the Cuban position. But he said the crisis won't end until the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba does.

As poor Cubans continue streaming to Florida, the U.S. government refuses to discuss the embargo and insists on limiting the current talks to migration.

Nigerians see repression in new laws

LAGOS (R) — Leaders of Nigeria's opposition groups said Wednesday that new powers of detention without trial adopted by the country's military rulers portended repression ahead.

They said decrees, which also make government actions unchallengeable in courts, would not end the unrest unleashed by last year's annulment of a presidential election widely believed to have been won by detained politician Moshood Abiola.

The laws, all backdated many weeks, were unveiled Tuesday after the collapse of a two-month strike by oil workers to try to force military ruler General Sani Abacha to free Mr. Abiola

and cede power to him.

"We expect oppressive acts to begin in the shortest possible time," Ayo Opatokun, national secretary of the main opposition National Democratic Coalition (NADECO), told Reuters.

Beko Ransome-Kuti, president of the umbrella Campaign for Democracy (CD) pressure group, said: "People won't sit down and fold their hands to these indignities."

CD and NADECO have been major forces behind Mr. Abiola, who in June proclaimed himself president of Africa's most populous country in defiance of its military rulers.

He was arrested and is on

trial for treason, a development that triggered riots and strikes which have gradually abated.

Apart from the decree allowing the government's number two official and the inspector-general of police to detain anyone considered a security risk for three months without trial, another law banned three newspaper chains from circulation.

Among them are the National Concord Group owned by Mr. Abiola, which has been sealed off since he proclaimed himself president.

"These decrees show the government has no plan to introduce democracy," opposition lawyer Gani Fawehinmi said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
جوردن تايمز صحيفة سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Dialogue is pure success

THOSE WHO wanted to believe, believed or were driven to believe that Jordan's democratisation process has been on the wane lately might, by today, have second thoughts. The meeting that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan held yesterday with representatives of political parties and trade unions, in the presence of journalists and television cameras, was a living testimony to the fact that although it had been on a downslide our country's democratisation was in no way gone and finished. To be sure, the meeting, which was attended by the prime minister and members of the recently formed Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation, can be seen and has to serve as a new turning point in the country's search for its true democratic identity.

There is not one bit of exaggeration in reporting that the opposition figures who attended yesterday's forum went as far as any politician anywhere in the world could go in criticising the regime and its policies, without any fear or qualm. Some of them even volunteered to say that had they spoken such words anywhere else in the Arab World their families might have never seen them again. But it was not only the opposition parties who spoke their minds openly and tackled issues as sensitive as corruption, political repression and discrimination. Other mainstream parties let out volleys against continued nepotism in the country, inefficiency and mismanagement by the government and so on. The Crown Prince, the prime minister and other senior officials listened carefully and attentively, with His Royal Highness reacting to fiery statements calmly and objectively, point by point. It is true, the Crown Prince outlined to the politicians, many of whom do not have solid experience yet, some points which they have to remember all the time and cautioned against putting slogans above feasible and practical projects. Yet, it was the right thing to do, given the wide gap that still separates reality from dreams in regional political work.

In any case, the dialogue, the openness that characterised it and its noble aims are what matters and is necessary in the push to reassert Jordan's need for democracy and the determination to see it through.

Each of the issues raised in the crucial meeting yesterday is worth debating and following up on. The important point for now is that by taking the initiative to start and hopefully institutionalise this dialogue, the Crown Prince has scored success for all of us.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Wednesday praised Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for supporting women's equality in her address to the U.N. Conference on Population and Development. Ms. Bhutto was the first Muslim woman to tackle such important an issue at the conference and her address assumes real significance as she is the leader of one of the largest Islamic countries, said Taher Al Adwan. The Pakistani premier presented to the world an image of women totally different from that which is conceived in the West and by the Western media, which are totally hostile to the Islamic World, said the writer. The Islamic World abounds with movements that advocate the isolation of women and this call is being exploited by the Western media against Islam, which the West considers an enemy, said the writer. Indeed, Ms. Bhutto's address was not only a mere defence of women's rights but also a defence of the values and the teachings of Islam before the world, noted the writer. Ms. Bhutto has set a good example for other women in the Islamic World and advocated the cause of Muslim women, calling for their equality with men and their participation along side men in dealing with the challenges of the modern age, the writer said.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Wednesday said that a return of these inter-Arab relations to the pre-Gulf war level is impossible in view of the deep changes and the serious developments in the Arab World over the past four years. The circumstances have changed and the concepts about Arab relations have undergone serious transformation due to the Gulf crisis and the war, as well as the prevailing disarray in Arab banks, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The continued embargo against Iraq and the rapid moves in the peace process are among the factors that influence the Arab mind at the present, said the writer. The result was that the Arab masses have lost contact with each other while Arab governments turned inwardly trying to deal with their own internal affairs, he said. The writer said although it is not possible to return matters to their former status, one can only hope that the Arab states will now set the stage for new relations based on mutual respect.

The View from Academia

The tunnel is the solution

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

ONE CANNOT but highly commend what is being referred to by many these days as the "tunnel phenomenon." The pedestrian tunnels right under the Jordan University and Istiklal highways as well as the so-called press tunnel, at present in full function, have come not only to remedy a traffic problem from which we have long suffered but also to make the road situation a lot more convenient. We want to see more of this phenomenon.

Indeed, after we have tried it, the tunnel is the solution. First of all, Amman has grown tremendously over the past few years. Its population has more than doubled, and (naturally) so have road users. Though new roads have been, and are being, constructed we have not been able to put an end to traffic jams which, in certain parts of the capital and at certain hours, can be absolutely intolerable.

Furthermore, the city itself has expanded so much (horizontally) and the roads have swallowed up so much precious space that we may not, in a few years, be able to afford losing more valuable space and land.

The tunnel, which is part of the process of "vertical" expansion, is a blessing in this respect. Quite simply, it does not consume much new space. Add to this also the fact that Amman is hilly, which makes it more congenial to tunnel building.

Secondly, while traffic lights do certainly help organise or regulate traffic and prevent road accidents, they unfortunately obstruct traffic movement and cause significant time delays to both road users inside the city and those heading outside it. When someone is travelling from Amman to Salt, why should he/she come to a full stop at a

circle and four of five other traffic lights. A friend of mine says (and he is right to a great extent) that it is much easier for him to go from Khaldi to Irbid than from Khaldi to Marka. The situation is likely to get worse if predictions for Jordan in the aftermath of peace come true and if Jordan indeed becomes Singapore, unless we act fast. The tunnel is an excellent idea because in addition to eliminating traffic congestion and saving a great deal of time, it spares us the immense psychological trauma and stress caused by jams and delays and makes driving more enjoyable.

Thirdly, and equally important, the efficiency with which the plans for the said tunnels have been implemented and the promptness of the timing — quite phenomenal no doubt — are worth highlighting. In my opinion, the obstacle which has crippled the country's development and progress most severely for years is not money (as some think), even though the financial factor is crucial, and is not expertise or technology (even though these two factors are also crucial), but mediocrity of performance and inefficiency. For instance, the sewerage in the major bulk of the city of Irbid (many of its suburbs are still without a sewer system) took so many painful years to finish when it ought to have been completed in months. The Amman-Irbid highway took triple the time originally planned for it to be constructed not because of the "major" collapse, which was not major by the way, but because of laxness and incompetence. The said tunnels, on the other hand, were completed on time. This is indeed remarkable. The Municipality of Greater Amman and the other governmental authorities with which it collaborated deserve our

appreciation and applause first because they brought the tunnels into life speedily and competently and secondly because they proved to us (in deeds not words) that we can plan, conduct and execute important business and vital projects neatly and efficiently.

What we need now is to have more tunnels, especially in those areas in the capital (and perhaps some of our other main cities) where there is still a serious traffic problem. There is, first and foremost perhaps, the Ministry of Interior Circle, which is still extremely upsetting to drive through or around and extremely hazardous. Traffic from Abdali to the University Highway must be planned in a way that enables motorists to avoid the circle, perhaps through a tunnel. But there is also the Third Circle, the Fourth, the Fifth, the Sixth and the Seventh.

It is my firm belief that the road condition and the traffic situation in any city or country in the world reflect the state or image of its civilisation at large. If the road is filthy, disorganised, heavily congested, there is something seriously wrong with its own vision, mentality, attitude, policies, procedures, etc. Undeniably, we have since the seventies done a lot to improve Amman's physical looks and to improve the traffic situation. This we must underscore. But there is a lot to be done. Our recent experience with tunnels assures us not only that we can, with our humble means and ability, do a great deal but that we can do what we do neatly and efficiently.

Let there be more tunnels, and let there be more of the vision, mentality and quality the recent tunnels clearly signify.

Egypt: The price of stability

By Gordon Robison

TWO YEARS after they began, the Egyptian government's latest series of battles with militant Islam appear, for the moment, to have drawn to a close. Political violence is now largely confined to Middle Egypt — roughly the region between Minya and Asyut.

The slums around Cairo have been quiet for several months and there have been no attacks on foreign tourists in the capital since last December. As the Egyptian government prepared to welcome thousands of delegates to Monday's gigantic United Nations Conference on Population and Development, it could not but be relieved that people now generally take the interior minister at his word when he says that terrorism has been quashed. The regime's increasing self-confidence was not recently on display in mid-May when it began to release alleged militants who were said to have recanted their beliefs. Stability, however, has come at a price. After a long, slow and rather tentative period of political liberalisation, Egypt is once again becoming a more repressive society. As is often the case in the Middle East, "security" has become a mantra whose intonation justifies almost anything.

Egypt is going through a process which might be called "re-Nasserisation." This has little or nothing to do with the personality cult which once surrounded President Nasser but it does aptly describe the country's present political situation. The most powerful political trend in Egypt today is a reversion to the authoritarian rule of old, coupled with an increasing demand for public conformity which, though it bears no direct resemblance to Arab socialism, is every bit as stifling.

This development, though unfortunate, should not really be surprising. From President Hosni Mubarak down, the people who run Egypt are men in their 50s and 60s who spent

the early and middle portion of their careers working their way up through the bureaucracy of Nasser's police state. Most of them first came to positions of responsibility under the equally undemocratic regime of Anwar Sadat. Many of these men are also old enough to have first-hand memories of the inept and corrupt regimes which ran the country under the guise of democracy from 1919 until the 1952 military coup — a record hardly designed to inspire confidence in the democratic ethos. More immediately, there is the example of Algeria, which Egyptian authorities have taken as an object lesson in why political Islam is always a bad thing and free elections are, at best, dangerous.

Curbing local democracy

In March, the government rammed through parliament a measure withdrawing the right of villages to elect their mayors and deputy mayors. An explanatory note attached to the draft law stated that "the application of the election system proved that it is a threat to public order and security because it augmented already existing rivalries between the major clans in certain villages," according to the government-owned *Al-Ahram* weekly. The note went on to explain that elected mayors were more concerned with satisfying voters than with "order and security," and that, in any case, elections were costly to stage.

In April, the State Council, a body which, among other things, arbitrates questions of jurisdiction within the government, granted wide-ranging censorship powers to Al-Azhar, despite the objections of the ministry of culture. Civil liberties took a particularly dim view of this development because in recent years the sheikhs who run Al-Azhar's censorship review board, known officially as the Islamic Research Academy, have construed their right

to examine "Islamic work and productions, or those which relate to Islam" as a licence to ban virtually anything.

These two incidents — March's curtailment of local democracy in the name of "security" and April's broadening of Al-Azhar's censorship writ — typify the way things are moving in Egypt. In the name of containing violent political Islam, Egypt's supposedly secular government has, over the last two years, granted ever broader powers over public discourse to the most conservative elements of "official" Islam while, at the same time, reimposing the draconian political-security control of everyday life which typified the country in the 1960s and '70s. Egypt in 1994 is a country in which dissent is allowed only within certain carefully prescribed boundaries and in which outward conformity to a code of propriety laid down by the most conservative elements of society is increasingly demanded. Moreover, the permissible realm of both dissent and social liberalism is narrowing as the government has become increasingly intolerant of criticism, both foreign and domestic.

Curbing public protest

Observers in Cairo have long noted the government's reluctance to allow any form of public protest — even pro-government demonstrations are effectively banned under Egypt's state of emergency laws (which have been in place almost constantly since 1967). In March, several thousand people attempting to protest at the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron were attacked by the police as they left (ironically) Al-Azhar Mosque. The protesters were not in fact attempting to stage a march — the demonstration had merely spilled out onto the street. Police gassed the demonstrators and then, when they retreated, fired gas into the mosque itself. In May, a group of lawyers met a similar fate when they attempted to march

through central Cairo to protest at the death of a colleague in police custody.

The affair with the lawyers was particularly instructive. The death in police custody in late April of Abdul Haith Madani, a lawyer with ties to the outlawed *Jamaat Al-Islamiya*, sparked protests and, eventually, a hunger strike by his fellow pro-Islamist lawyers. The government first claimed that Mr. Madani had died of an asthma attack but then refused to release the autopsy results or even to allow his family to see the body (which was delivered to them in a sealed coffin). The heavy-handed treatment meted out to the lawyers when they attempted to stage a protest march, and the subsequent arrest of nearly 40 members of the lawyers' syndicate, swung many non-Islamist lawyers over to the side of the protesters.

Throughout this episode the government stuck to a narrow view of the situation in which everything came down to security. Although never tried in a court, Mr. Madani was deemed to have been a serious threat to security and the *Jamaat*'s Cairo paymaster, according to government claims following his death. As a defence of its conduct, this amounted to a government claim that Mr. Madani had died of natural causes but that had it been otherwise he would probably have deserved it.

International attention

The case attracted an unusual amount of attention in the international media, and still has the potential to cause problems for the Mubarak government — the second largest recipient of American foreign aid — with both Washington and the European Union. Front-page newspaper photos of black-robed lawyers throwing stones at riot police may prove difficult for the State Department to explain to the U.S. Congress when foreign aid is debated later this year. Because of its potential to disrupt the flow of foreign aid into the country, the

government has become increasingly edgy about the international attention generated by these events.

The first sign of this came in October 1992 when several Cairo-based foreign correspondents were summoned to the ministry of information and reprimanded for their coverage of the aftermath of that month's Cairo earthquake. The government objected to reports that its response to the disaster had been slow and bureaucratic and that it had devoted much of its efforts to preventing relief activities by the Muslim Brotherhood.

In the months that followed, relations with the foreign press corps steadily deteriorated. Some foreign correspondents have been told that they now need permission to travel outside Cairo, and other journalists who have approached government officials, particularly in Upper Egypt, have discovered that it has become extremely difficult to get appointments with provincial governors without prior permission from the interior ministry.

It is true that under Mr. Mubarak Egypt has become a far more open and less repressive society than it was under Nasser or Sadat, but many observers — both foreign and domestic — have long wondered to what extent the forms and institutions of popular participation have actually taken root. The events of the last year have answered that question: Democracy in Egypt exists on sufferance, and only as long as it does not interfere with the broader goal of preserving both public order and the power of the present ruling elite.

Let us be clear: The police state apparatus, while increasingly overbearing, remains but a shadow of what it was a generation ago. But the progress towards a more pluralistic society which has been here over the last 10 years is being rapidly undone. It would be shameful if Egypt's friends in the West not to take note.

Middle East International

Tough fight for Swedish coalition

By Vibeke Laroi
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's four-party coalition presented a joint election manifesto on Sunday, two weeks before the government looks set to be defeated by the opposition Social Democrats in the general election.

Speculation had been running high in the markets and the media that conservative Prime Minister Carl Bildt's coalition would announce a joint manifesto. The document in the daily *Dagens Nyheter*, however, fell short of presenting a joint economic policy to deal with the country's soaring budget deficit.

Instead it pointed to what the centre-right coalition had been able to accomplish in the past three years and warned against the Social Democrats taking power.

The four party leaders said Social Democratic rule in the next four-year mandate period would lead to stagnation, fewer jobs and the risk of high long-term unemployment.

The coalition said its policy had been, and would continue to be, to improve conditions for companies in Sweden and to reduce the structural deficit in public finances to create the room for lower interest rates and lower inflation.

"For us to be able to avoid a drawn-out unemployment crisis, hinder an accelerated crisis in state finances, and prevent a welfare crisis, we must in the years ahead obtain an additional half a million jobs in the private sector," the manifesto said.

The parties referred to their earlier savings plan in the article, saying it would need to be strengthened in light of the recent rise in interest rates and after the outcome of European Union (EU) referendum on Nov. 13, but gave no new figures.

The government said when presenting its supplementary budget in April that it would extend by 20 billion crowns to 100 billion crowns the total target for its savings plan, which would be extended by one year to 1999.

The shaky minority coalition said in the article that voters would have to look at the parties' individual policies.

"We are four different parties with different political programmes. We have different views on issues we regard as important, such as... defence costs and foreign aid savings."

"But during the past three years we have clearly showed our will and our ability to govern together," it added.

The coalition faces a tough fight in the Sept. 18 election against the Social Democrats who have consistently been gaining around half of voter support in recent opinion polls.

A poll in the daily *Svenska Dagbladet* on Sunday, however, showed the Social Democrats losing 3.2 percentage points in the past week, bringing it below a majority.

Japan sees faint glimmer of two-party rule

By Brian Williams
Reuters

TOKYO — A faint glimmer of hope has appeared on Japan's political horizon that the nation may be headed for a two-party system of government.

After decades, if not centuries, of rough and tumble politics which kept an army of tea-leaves readers in work, the Japanese may have only two main candidates to choose from in their next general election.

That is the most optimistic view. For the pessimist, the end of the century is a more likely time to expect two-party rule similar to Britain's conservative and Labour parties or the Republicans and Democrats of the United States.

What is certain is that if it comes, political scientists will look back to this week as the moment when Japan took the first firm, if hesitant, steps down this new

political track.

Japan's eight opposition parties were first out of the starting blocks when they announced on Tuesday they had agreed on "basic principles" that could merge them into a new party.

Within hours, a top official of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), senior partner in Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's coalition government with the Socialists, hinted that they too could see a merged future.

But it is the opposition, which includes three former prime ministers, making the running for the moment. "It is clear that the problems facing the nation, both at home and abroad, cannot be solved with the political systems and common sense of past tradition," the opposition grouping said in a statement.

They have about 200 of 511 seats in the key lower house.

The eight, already agreed on acting as a parliamentary

group when the Diet resumes later this month, hopes to set a timetable for a merger "as soon as possible."

No one expects the going to be either quick or easy.

"After decades, if not centuries, of rough and tumble politics which kept an army of tea-leaves readers in work, the Japanese may have only two main candidates to choose from in their next general election."

With the ambitions of eight parties and the egos of three former prime ministers to satisfy, the early days are lined with pitfalls that could send the whole idea crashing before it has hardly started.

The history of Japanese politics, back even to the earliest times, is littered with divorces and remarriages of parties.

The almost inexorable impetus for the two-party system has to do with election law changes passed earlier this year.

Under the changes, 300 of the Diet seats will be

decided under a first-past-the-post system instead of the multi-seat constituencies of the past where a candidate could be elected with as little as 10 per cent of the vote.

This and other changes, like the introduction of public subsidies for parties based on their number of seats in parliament, gives the advantage to a large

مكتبة من الأصل

Weekender

Iraqi musician seeks to develop Arabic music

By Mohammad Mashariqah

Relative freedom, hospitality and human protection, which Amman offers to Arab citizens, has made the capital the hub of artists and intellectuals from all over the Arab World.

Iraqi lute player and musician Naseer Shamma feels that Amman is his second home town and permanent working place where he meets with his friends and relatives and exercises his new musical experiments.

In the past week, I met Shamma at a music concert where he played some of his own works which draw on traditional Arab music. Shamma's excellent performance thrilled the audience and his noted skill seemed to give a new life to the lute as a traditional musical instrument.

Shamma believes that an Arab musician who aspires to attain high standards and excellence has first to absorb the old and traditional kind of music and to be fully aware of the requirements of a successful soloist.

Shamma is dedicating his efforts towards researching Arab musical instruments and has been practicing playing the lute and listening to Iraqi music and reading the works of famous musicians from his country 12 hours a day in order to achieve that goal.

"In 1985, I got hold of the tip of the line when I presented what was described as a distinguished achievement, and since then I reflected on studies and research work of music composed by Al Farabi and Kindi, two noted Arab musicians of the Abbasid era," Shamma said.

"Later I started playing new types of music that touches people's sentiments relying on traditional Arab theories in music; and so my experiments were based on scientific knowledge," said Shamma.

Shamma's interest in knowledge about music was coupled with his tendency to develop playing the

lute; and this dual interest helped him to attain a world-level success.

"Our Arabic music," said Shamma, "does not lack depth or richness but is rather in need of scientific knowledge for development. After Farabi, Arab music came to a standstill while the West continued to benefit from our scholars' knowledge," he added.

What distinguishes Shamma from the rest of the musicians is his trend towards being independent in his performance on the lute, thus creating a new dimension in musical expression.

This lute player, indeed, deals with every single cord as being a separate musical instrument unlike other musicians who deal with the cords together.

In his view, vast possibilities exist for the players to end their traditional and rather dull way of playing on this instrument. He believes that lack of development of this kind of music was the reason behind Arabic music remaining confined to limited areas and its failure to become known to other parts of the world.

and Turkish skills, but then they caused the original Arabic music to lose its pure identity."

"Most of the Arab musicians have busied themselves with the new modern age Western music and never thought of reverting to the traditional Arabic music and its scientific basis to build on and develop," according to Shamma.

"Our students who went west to study music returned here to teach Western kind of music and never thought of developing traditional Arabic music," he added.

"It is regrettable that no Arab musician has yet dared to present musical harmony using Arabic instruments because this is a trend that has been alienated by Western-trained musicians," Shamma said.

Shamma accuses Egypt of contributing towards destroying Arabic music and the loss of its excellent taste and its deterioration because Egypt has been presenting Arabic music through inflated forms in media services as if music were a political or national speech.

Indeed, he believes that Arabic music and musicians have been spoiled after incorporating their works with the state's functions leaving them closely tied to the information services. This policy, he says, has deprived the local musicians of the chance to try to develop Arabic music, which can only take place in a free and independent environment.

When Shamma starts playing the lute, one can sink deep into imagination, visualising, the art of the Assyrians and the Babylonians who inhabited Iraq in ancient days.

Shamma is a well-educated artist who realises his objectives and has clear ideas about ways of developing Arabic music and resuming Arab contributions to world culture. As he plays one can imagine that a whole orchestra is in action and the listener is overwhelmed by the fascinating tunes of the lute.



Naseer Shamma

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Shamma says that Western music has achieved its main values through the use of different instruments, and has developed with the passage of time displaying new colours and tastes.

In his view, diversification can be achieved in Arabic music too, but because Arabic music has been played individually rather in the form of an orchestra and since Arab musicians wanted to preserve the traditions, it remained frozen despite its potential.

When asked to give an opinion about any developments at all in the playing of the lute, Shamma said certain musicians who tried to bring about changes were motivated by Western concepts. "They succeeded in including some shades of Indian, Persian

Shatilla Camp: Tormented past — precarious future

Too Many Enemies: The Palestinian Experience In Lebanon
By Rosemary Sayigh
London: Zed Books Ltd. 1994, 369 pp.

Too Many Enemies is, unfortunately, an apt title for Rosemary Sayigh's new book which illuminates the constellation of factors that combined to make the Palestinian experience in Lebanon both the most down-trodden and exhilarating of any exile community's.

A history of Shatilla refugee camp; an analysis of the shifting alignments among Lebanese officials and militias, the Palestinians and the Syrian government; a diary of the 1985-87 war of the camps; an insight into daily life in the camps and popular culture — Too Many Enemies is all these things and more.

It was obviously not a random choice that led Sayigh to focus her research on Shatilla. This camp, along with neighbouring Sabra, leapt to international attention in 1982, with the notorious massacre enacted there by right-wing Lebanese militias, aided and abetted by the Israeli army. Only three years later, Shatilla again became a prime target — this time of the Amal movement's war on Palestinian camps.

Before these events, Shatilla was known as a

centre of the Palestinian resistance movement's political and social activities. But how many would remember the birth of this camp after the 1948 expulsion, when Palestinians from about 25 Galilee villages gathered on the southern outskirts of Beirut? Surely only the original residents remember the first rough shelters, the single petrol can of water allotted to each family per day, the tent schools and the sand which blew incessantly into the alleys of the low-lying area. Who today remembers that, in 1973, Shatilla was besieged by the Lebanese army for three months and strafed from the air? Or that Shatilla residents stayed up all night celebrating the Deuxieme Bureau's withdrawal from the camp?

BOOK REVIEW

Events in and around Shatilla are related by interviews with camp residents. This is in accordance with the author's idea that: "The only really authentic histories are those that groups involved in national or social struggle produce themselves as an intrinsic part of political action" (p. 9). Sayigh provides a cohering framework for the oral histories she gathered in Shatilla, by analysing the concurrent local and regional developments.

The skillful combination of interviews and back-

ground information is reminiscent of Sayigh's earlier book, *Palestinians: From Peasants to Revolutionaries* (Zed, 1979), which also deals with Palestinians in Lebanon. But here the comparison ends. Palestinians: From Peasants to Revolutionaries traces the roots of the Palestinian cause, the rise of the Palestinian resistance movement and how it changed the lives of Palestinians in Lebanon in particular. For years, this book was among the best introductions to the question of Palestine.

Too Many Enemies has a quite different tone, mainly because times have changed. Though referring back to the 50s, the focus is Too Many Enemies is on the 80s. By necessity, it is the story of the defeat of the Palestinian resistance movement as it had cohered in Lebanon in the 70s. It tells how this defeat impacted on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and how they struggled to survive in the post-1982 situation. It is hardly an introduction, but will be of great interest to those who already possess basic knowledge of the Palestinian issue and the Middle East political environment.

The political scene in Lebanon has always been complex, and never more so than in the aftermath of the 1982 Israeli invasion. Yet Sayigh steers a judicious course through the turbulent events of the 80s. She is consistently sympathetic to the ordinary people, Palestinian as well as Lebanese, but not

always kind to their leaders. She is critical, yet fair, in her presentation and judgments. The book deals openly with the faults of the Palestinian resistance movement, but also shows that it was up against a host of enemies and circumstances beyond its potential to overcome.

In contrast to many other books on Lebanon, Too Many Enemies steers clear of sectarian overtones. Sayigh shows that the sectarian violence that came to prevail in Lebanon did not arise from the people themselves, whether Palestinian or Lebanese. Rather, it was fostered by the Lebanese political system, and aggravated by a combination of circumstances and the manipulation of rulers and leaders of various political shades.

In the epilogue to Too Many Enemies, Sayigh describes the current Palestinian situation in Lebanon as being highly precarious, based on her reading of regional political developments and the lack of guarantees for their most basic civil rights. Subsequent events have done nothing to disprove this view. The PLO-Israeli accord, aside from all its debatable pro's and con's, appears clear on one point by omission: 1948 refugees are not covered by its terms, and virtually all Palestinians in Lebanon belong to this category.

Sally Brand

Adult children of alcoholics share their pain but is that enough?

The genie of the bottled

By Anna Blundy

"THE STEP I have taken has been to disown every member of my family and friends," says Gordon (not his real name), who often attends Adult Children of Alcoholics meetings. "Without A CoA I don't think I could have coped with the overwhelming feelings brought about by the ultimate betrayal of my primary caregivers."

Gordon, who only began to treat himself at the age of 42 and who says he had been attracted to abusive people, remembers almost nothing of his childhood apart from five incidences of "horrible" alcohol-induced sexual abuse. Feeling that his problem must be unique and not wanting to face up to the terrors of his infancy, it took many years of searching to realise that his broken life must signify and to begin to heal himself.

Most members of Britain's 60 ACoA groups undergo therapy of other kinds, but there is no professional input to these weekly meetings. A policy of "no cross talk" is designed to stop members feeling judged and reinforces the atmosphere of

safety and freedom of expression. The literature explains that "children of alcoholics are always close to feeling the despair which comes from being helpless and dependent in a home without love" and therefore need understanding and nurturing without the burden of direct guidance. But could this non-professionalism be dangerous?

Many adult children are deeply disturbed and though they can exercise their emotions within the group to a certain extent, they cannot expect any actual advice or help from other members. "We discover our inner child. We find the magic of a wondering child alive and healing," the creed claims. But what if they don't? Are they not left feeling even more helpless and rejected?

Dr. Andrew John, of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, suspects that for a few people that may well be the case: "To have no cross talk is fairly rigorous and might mean that some aren't getting the help they need."

In a convent basement in central London, Jo was preparing for a meeting. She took the bulbs out of the overhead lights, lit a

night-light candle and placed it in the centre of the floor. A small man in a woolly hat began a conversation with his neighbour, who sat fidgeting.

"Do you find that they tell you at AA not to come to these ones?" he asked. "I don't tell them," his comrade giggled, without raising his eyes.

"Good idea. I've got myself a little moped now because the meetings are all over the place. I feel a bit unsteady on the Underground. Do you go to the Coda (Co-dependents Anonymous) one in Wimbledon?"

Once everyone was settled it was time for introductions, a chorus of greeting and brief mood descriptions. Of the 12 people present, only the man with the new moped was happy. It was cold in the room and everyone seemed huddled in his or her own misery as the pitiful stories poured out.

One man, who could not talk without twitching convulsively, had been having trouble with his flatmate and said that he had been cycling around the streets crying a lot lately. A painfully thin young woman clutched her glass of tea as if trying to extract warmth and said

that after nine years of trying to recover she felt no better and was becoming suicidal. Jo, her eyes closed, said that her "inner child" was dead and that she was barely able to get up in the mornings.

They discussed their fear of continuing the cycle of alcoholic and physical abuse that their parents had begun, a common dread among the severely abused. The catalogue of desperation continued into the evening and Jo was speaking for everyone when she said: "In a way I just can't face these meetings, and in another way I don't want it to end because I'm so bloody lonely."

Psychotherapist David Stafford, a trustee of the National Association of Children of Alcoholics, insists that the point of self-help groups like these is to connect people, and that there is method in their unprofessionalism. "Many people have sought professional help and found professionals to be very unsympathetic to their specific problems. I think that in the groups you do tend to get a cross-section of society and there will be those who could do with some professional help. But the same goes for any

group of people."

One man, who helps to run ACoA, had an alcoholic mother who terrorised his childhood: "I remember trying to divine what was going to happen next or whether my mother was drunk or not from just the sound of her key in the front door lock. My parents suffer terribly from false memory syndrome, since they are convinced that I had a happy childhood. They did not see the panic behind my eyes, the desperate hysterical edge to the humour. I remember my mother tell-

ing me I was responsible for my little brother's brain damage, but the return of those memories has given me a sense of myself I never had before."

You do not have to be the child of an alcoholic to attend, he explains. "It's for anyone who identifies with the problem. You get to adulthood and then realise a lack. For the most part you only remember what it's safe to remember, so rediscovering abuse comes up. It differs for everyone but

many people suddenly remember what it felt like. For some it is a process of leaving home emotionally, divorcing their parents. In America they tend to go on the Oprah Winfrey show and announce it."

The tentacles of the problem are sticky, claim Adult Children who share Philip Larkin's views on parenthood, and it often takes years for recovery to begin. But they are adamant that the 12-step programme (based on that used by Alcoholics Anonymous) really does

help. It begins by recognising the problem and it progresses with the help of God.

The mention of divine intervention does make the programme sound less professional. That, though is apparently the point — ACoA is simply "a 12-step fellowship of men and women who meet regularly to re-parent themselves with gentleness, humour, love and respect."

And you get out, says Gordon, what you are prepared to put in — The Guardian.

Thoughts for this week

- In the midst of great joy do not promise to give a man anything; in the midst of great anger do not answer a man's letter — Chinese proverb.
- Never tell your resolution beforehand — John Selden, English statesman (1584-1654).
- In America, getting on in the world means getting out of the world we have known before — Ellery Sedgwick, American editor (1872-1960).
- The best mirror is an old friend — George Herbert, English author (1893-1933).
- A feeble body weakens the mind — Jean Rousseau, French philosopher (1712-1778).
- As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy — Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865).
- Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more — from "Henry V" by William Shakespeare (1564-1616).
- Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe — H.G. Wells, English writer-historian (1866-1946).
- Life is one long process of getting tired — Samuel Butler, British author (1835-1902).
- Only where there is language is there world — Adrienne Rich, American poet (1929-).

Office Automation

By Jean-Claude Elias

In the early eighties, when personal computers (PC) were still in their infancy, several manufacturers of mini computers introduced the concept of Office Automation (OA). Companies like Data General, DEC, Wang and IBM dedicated a substantial part of their budget to developing and promoting OA.

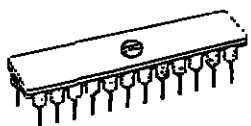
If the machines could do accounting, stock control and scientific calculations, why couldn't they take in charge the apparently simpler, daily, routine tasks of the average office, namely filing, typing, telephone and fax communications? Ideally, all such work would be centralised in one computer. All the office employees, executives included, would be able to access, to share the files and the data instantly and easily. Information would be entered only once, therefore saving precious time to those who needed only to consult it from time to time.

The communication between the employees would tremendously benefit from the so-established network. An office with "less paper" and better productivity was the driving motto of the promotion campaign back then. Whether a 10-people small office or the Pentagon, all were supposed to look at OA as a dream come true.

Alas, the theory did not lead to a successful application. The world was not ready for OA. The electronic filing of printed documents proved to be very expensive. Even today, it is still extremely costly to use optical disks for image archiving, though the price of the technology is constantly going down. Moreover, the operating systems (the set of commands used to run and control a computer) were not friendly at that time.

The biggest mistake of the manufacturers back then was to have tried to implement OA as a total solution, all at once. It could also be that the right people to succeed in the project should have been

chip talk



software specialists and not hardware manufacturers. By the end of the decade and except for rare, very large organisations who accepted to experiment with it, OA, as a global concept, was practically pronounced dead.

Instead of proposing a global approach, Microsoft rather seem to have adopted a discrete strategy. Their set of programmes, namely MS-Word word processor, MS-Excel spreadsheet, MS-Access database, this in addition to the utilities found in MS Windows (communications, filing, etc.), once integrated, perform an advanced yet simple, painless form of OA.

The above programmes were first introduced as separate units. There were even disparities in the way the different programmes ran. Only recently has Microsoft brought them closer one to another. Even the title "Microsoft Office" was only recently used by the company to describe the whole set. The user was introduced, brought to the world of OA without even knowing it. A very smart strategy indeed.

There are still certain office tasks that Microsoft Office will not do, like optical archiving and retrieval for instance. It is nevertheless a very successful piece of software, probably the most ever for PCs. Instead of dreaming of an ideal, complete, total but unrealistic OA implementation, Microsoft has given the PC word a solution that is practical and that works.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

ARABIC PROVERBS EXPLAINED

- "He returned (swinging) his hands to and fro."
TRANSLITERATION: Reji eed lewara we'eed le'oddam.
MEANING: He came back empty-handed.

★★★★★

- "Halima is back to her habits."
TRANSLITERATION: Rij'et Halima le'aadit'hal adima.
MEANING: Said of anyone who abstains for a time, but goes back to his old custom. The name "Halima" is used to rhyme with "adima." It doesn't refer to some special woman.

★★★★★

- "The water has gone back to its old course."
TRANSLITERATION: Rij'et el-may lema-jaareeha.
MEANING: Things have resumed their old course.

★★★★★

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Is a whale a fish?
2. Why do dogs pant?
3. Who was tum-tum?
4. What is a cos?
5. What is a flying fox?

★★★★★

TIME FOR FUN

- TWO FLIES were playing football in a saucer. Said one: "We shall have to do better than this next week, we're playing in the cup!"

★★★★★

- IT has been reported that there was once a woman who was so wealthy that she had a separate dentist to attend to each tooth.

★★★★★

- A BUSINESSMAN was asked by a friend: "Why does your secretary wear a long bead necklace?" He replied, "She wants me to know that I can count on her."

★★★★★

- ★ MOTHER: Who's that man you were talking to?
DAUGHTER: I don't know him, mummy.
MOTHER: But I heard you say "My soul, my life!"
DAUGHTER: That's because I don't know his name!

★★★★★

- ★ Once Joha went out at midnight roaming in the streets. A guard happened to meet him, and asked: "What are you looking for at this late hour of the night?"
"My sleep escaped me and I'm searching for it, sir," replied Joha.

★★★★★

- An election candidate was making door-to-door visits. One door was opened by a stern-faced woman. "Well?" she said.

★★★★★

"To what party does your husband belong, madam?" the candidate asked.

"Young man," replied the woman, bristling. "I'm the party he belongs to!"

★★★★★

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- Who's that girl? *Man tilkal-fatat.*
— She's rather short. *Innaha kassira naw'an.*
— Look! What a sweet smile and thoughtful eyes! *Onzor! Ya laha min ibtissama holwa wa-oyoon haalima!*
— I admire her large hazel eyes. *Ana moojab be'aynayha al-assaleyatayn al-wasi-atayn.*
— Her voice is remarkably soft and low, isn't it? *Inna sawtaha na'im bissoora malhoosa, alaysa kazalik?*
— Oh yes, she's very gentle and attractive, too. *Na'am, kama annaha rakika jiddan wa-jazzaba.*
— A beautiful woman is the hell of the soul, the purgatory of the purse and the paradise of the eyes. *Al-Mar'al jamila jaheemur-rooh, wa-mufkira lil-jayb wa-janna lil-ayn.*

★★★★★

TODAY'S DISH
OKRA
(Bamia)
INGREDIENTS

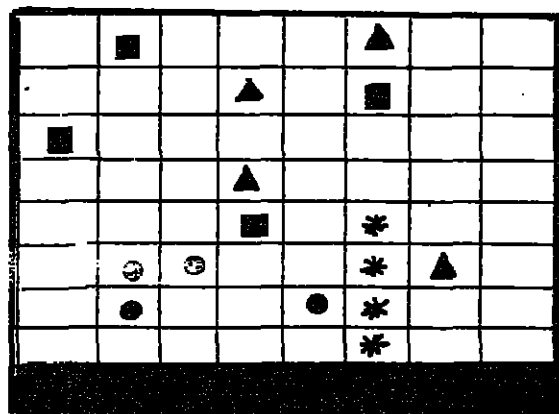
- 1 pound fresh or frozen okra (cut or whole frozen okra)
1½ pound lamb meat cut into small pieces or ¼ pound ground beef.
T. tomato sauce, salt, pepper, garlic powder, cumin, 2 sections of fresh garlic.
1 medium chopped onion.
½ T. butter.
1 C. water
1 T. salt

METHOD:
Put chopped onion, pieces of fresh garlic and the fat in a pan on low fire and stir. When the mixture becomes yellow, add meat (either lamb or ground meat), then stir for a few minutes. Add tomato paste, seasoning, and a cup of water. Add okra (cleaned and fresh) and put on moderate heat until the mixture boils. Pour in a casserole dish, brush top with butter. Bake for 1½ hours at 350 F. Serve hot.

★★★★★

PUZZLES
DIVIDING THE DIAGRAM

Divide the diagram into FOUR sections of equal size and shape, so that each contains a set of four identical symbols.

JTV CHANNEL 2
WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 8

8:30 Heart Of Courage

9:30 Murder She Wrote

Jack And Bill

Jessica Fletcher helps the police to uncover a plot to assassinate a visiting head of state and by doing so, she helps a friend too!

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Ernie Kovacs

Between The Laughs

Through his laughs, a divorced television comedy star hides his tears as he searches for his wife and his two children she stole.

Friday, Sept. 9

7:30 The Munsters Today

300 Something

The married couple are bored with their life and the kid cannot stand a day with his grandfather

9:10 E.N.G.

Honour Or Wealth

During a telthon held by Channel 10 to raise funds for sick children, a precious statue of a horse is stolen from a museum.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Emilie

Emilie is given a farewell party by her students after she marries Henry — or 'Charlie' as another woman tells her, he was called!

Saturday, Sept. 10

7:30 Documentary — Dimension

8:30 Movie, Games And Videos

The latest in computer technology, and a book at the movies that made it to the bestselling charts, including The Paper, Sommerby, Maverick, and Slam Gun.

9:30 The Campbells

Comfort And Joy

Captain Simons spends Christmas Eve at Dr. Campbell's house.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Threesome

Starring: Stephen Collins and Deborah Raffin

Two close friends, who differ on so many things in life, agree on one thing: Both love the same woman.

Sunday, Sept. 11

7:30 FBI: Untold Stories

Killer Patrol

The federal police are looking for a killer. They suspect the police who reported the killing.

8:30 Step By Step

Al and Karen are under television lights! Both hope to appear in commercials.

9:10 Quantum Leap

The Great Spontini

Back to 1974, Sam is a magician who seeks to his family intact.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

Luke and Frank are into gold prospecting.

Monday, Sept. 12

7:30 Black Beauty

Accident

Bella Jones remembers many things including her real name and being on a ship that carries stolen gold.

8:30 Home Free

The Secret Of Matt's Success

Matt sees no harm when his boss dates his mother, but when things go bad between them, he knows where his love should go to.

9:00 Galactic Odyssey

10:00 News In English

10:30 Matrix

Shadows From The Past

Steve Matrix is looking for an eyewitness to a murder.

Tuesday, Sept. 13

7:30 Innovation

8:30 Hollywood Stunt Makers

The famous Hollywood stuntmen and a behind the scene look at some of their daring and risky acts in famous movies.

9:10 The Commish

Two Confessions

A crime is committed. One man comes forth and confesses to the crime; his twin brother soon follows him with a second confession. The eyewitness stands confused, and so does commissioner Skall.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Come In Spinner

We follow the stories of the ladies; Maylon, Mong, and Clare — the three realise that the men they've been seeing are not worth staying with.

Wednesday, Sept. 14

8:30 Bob

Bob has a new assistant; a beautiful but a mischievous woman!

9:10 The Nature Of Things

You Must Have Been A Bilingual Baby

A case study on how and why little children learn to speak two languages much easier and quicker than adults do.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Nanny

I don't Remember Mama

The Nanny helps Mr. Sheffield's daughter in a school competition on creativity.

10:50 Poldark

Ross crosses the English Channel with his men to free Dwight from a jail in France.

Africans can improve their
health for \$13 a year

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Africa's dismal health record can be improved significantly for a mere \$13 per person per year, a World Bank report on health policies said.

With a maternal mortality rate twice as high as in other developing nations, and malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS reaching epidemic proportions in many areas, Africa's health picture is cause for concern despite dramatic improvements in the past few decades, the report said.

The high incidence of disease takes a heavy toll on economic and social development in the continent, said the report. "Action for Better Health in Africa," which World Bank President Lewis Preston made public Wednesday in Brazzaville.

By far the biggest threat, the report said, comes from contagious and parasitic diseases that can be largely overcome by low-cost primary and preventive care.

For \$13 a year, basic health care could be assured to all Africans provided health policies and donor contributions — about 20 per cent of total expenditures — undergo fundamental changes, the World Bank said.

"In some countries, the donor's dominant role has prevented development of coherent national health systems," the report added.

Donor aid is mostly used to build hospital and other urban health facilities, while rural regions receive little funding for sorely needed health centres.

Nearly every African country has at least one major project, such as a large hospital, that will never function as planned because of lack of money to cover operating costs," the report said.

Donor programmes also tend to focus on themes formulated at international conferences, ignoring each country's priorities.

One outcome of such policies is that malaria has reappeared in Africa because vaccination campaigns were not maintained after international efforts eradicated the disease in the 1960s and 70s, said former Nigerian Health Minister Olikoye Ransome-Kuti.

Priority should be given to cost-effective health care packages: pregnancy-related care, family plan-

ning services, control of sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, immunisations and care for children's serious health problems such as diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, measles, malaria.

The World Bank recommends setting up health centres run by qualified nurses, for every 10,000 people, and a small hospital staffed by three physicians for every 150,000 people.

It also recommends low-cost household information programmes, such as those implemented in Tanzania and Gambia, to improve knowledge about sound health practices leading to the construction of household latrines and significant sales of mosquito nets and rehydration salts.

Arts & Fashion



...the hero of the film The

Hollywood
has golden
summer of

WASHINGTON — Hollywood's golden summer of box office success is under way. The top-grossing film of the season, "The Shawshank Redemption," has opened to a record-breaking \$10 million in its first weekend. Other major hits include "The Untouchables," "The Nanny," and "The Nanny."

The industry's summer season is expected to continue through the end of the year. The top-grossing film of the season, "The Shawshank Redemption," has opened to a record-breaking \$10 million in its first weekend. Other major hits include "The Untouchables," "The Nanny," and "The Nanny."

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Film

By Julie Van Hove

Since the death of Sékou Touré in 1984, Guinea, which once more, has entered numerous business adventures. Paradoxically, which are a reputedly medium, seem to have gained priority in terms of film and international relations.

PARIS — When Teliel, the national head of culture, once again visited Rhea Productions, a Paris company, he confirmed the earlier co-production of the film "The Nanny" in 1991. The film, which was produced by Teliel and Rhea Productions, was a success in Guinea and abroad.

Umbeles tells the story of a young man, Mamady Keita, who returns to his village to find it in ruins. In his subject, the film "The Nanny" is a documentary, but in form, it is a fiction. Indeed, the director, Mamady Keita, is a Guinean.



Simba, the hero of the film The Lion King

Hollywood has golden summer of hits

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Hollywood has had a golden summer, the most lucrative in the U.S. movie industry's history with record audiences and record box office receipts: More than \$2.2 billion in 14 weeks.

The industry's annual high-stakes, all-or-nothing gamble falls during just over 100 days of the summer season, which stretches from Memorial Day at the end of May to Labour Day at the beginning of September. Nearly 40 percent of new releases come out during this period.

This has been a year of records, one that is all the more remarkable because there have been no blockbuster hits on the order of 1993's Jurassic Park.

By Sept. 4, at least seven films will have broken the barrier of \$100 million in receipts during the summer season. No more than five films a season have broken the \$100 million mark and that has happened only twice — in 1989 and 1993.

This year more than half the summer's gross went to the top seven of the 65 new films released this year.

The average price of a ticket to U.S. movie theatres remained constant at \$4.14, so the bonanza at the box office was due to larger audiences. Initial estimates are that between 516 and 530 million tickets were sold this summer, compared to 513 million during the same period last year.

In August, the movie industry may have benefited from the professional

baseball strike that has sidelined millions of fans.

This year the lion Simba, hero of the Lion King, has dethroned the dinosaurs at the top of the list of hits, raking in \$260 million in box office receipts.

The big surprise — an incredible success, according to Hollywood analysts — is the jackpot hit by Forrest Gump, a low-budget film starring Tom Hanks that has grossed \$225 million.

The other success of the seas are the Flintstones and True Lies with Arnold Schwarzenegger, each of which grossed \$130 million. Speed with Keanu Reeves had \$115 million in receipts. The Mask with Jim Carrey and Clear and Present Danger with Harrison Ford each rang up \$100 million in box office receipts.

The extraordinary season for cinema has convinced Hollywood strategists of the need to revise their programming plans.

So as not to saturate theatres, distributors have delayed the release of a number of films such as an action flick with Jean-Claude Van Damme, Time Cop, and The River Wild with Meryl Streep.

Disney also announced plans to withdraw the Lion King from theatres to re-launch it later with a new advertising campaign to benefit from the lucrative Christmas season.

Universal for its part plans to rerelease Jurassic Parks at the end of August, to try to get an extra slice out of the big 1994 season.

Understanding Gump — a new kind of movie

By John Horn

The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES — The most interesting recent show business marriage had nothing to do with Michael Jackson or Julia Roberts. It wed two wildly different filmmaking schools, and the new couple already has a child.

He's named Forrest Gump. The movie is a remarkable hybrid of two previously divergent Hollywood styles: Tricky, high-tech effects and old-fashioned personal storytelling. That's partly why the millions of people seeing Forrest Gump think they're seeing something original.

In the past, eye-popping camera tricks were limited to mostly brainless blockbusters, from Die Hard to True Lies. Everyone involved knew it was all make-believe: When Arnold Schwarzenegger piloted a Harrier jet, you didn't worry whether his tray table was in the full upright and locked position. Plausibility wasn't the issue.

If you wanted realism and emotional connection, you looked elsewhere: The movies with the least pyrotechnics, such as Driving Miss Daisy, often sparked the most empathy. Some of

these films may have been set in faraway places, but at least they hit close to home. They felt real.

Forrest Gump has it both ways. There's an abundance of special effects, from Gump's White House visits to the "amputated" legs of Lt. Dan. For those craving more story than gimmickry, Forrest Gump follows a relatively conventional narrative structure. The film's time line may be mildly jarring, but its themes of love and virtue are completely familiar.

It is not surprising that the director of Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, is a protégé of Steven Spielberg, and Spielberg has produced several of Zemeckis' earlier films. Spielberg has swung sharply between effects — and stunt-laden crowd pleasers (the Indiana Jones movies, Jurassic Park) and somber dramas with more noble intentions (The Colour Purple, Schindler's List).

Although he has tried, Spielberg has never quite managed to merge the two at once. E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial came the closest, yet it ultimately starred a space alien, which hurts realism just a tad. He missed completely with Always in which Hol-



Nixon encounters Gump

ly Hunter dances with the ghost of Richard Dreyfuss.

Before Forrest Gump, Zemeckis was considered one of the town's top purveyors of special effects. His sleight-of-camera credits include the Back to the Future films, Who Framed Roger Rabbit and Death Becomes Her.

Forrest Gump represents a clear, dramatic break from the previous Zemeckis films: The earlier works were superficial amusements set in unreal worlds, filled with spectacular digital effects, colorful animation and state-of-the-art visuals.

The movies were fun to watch and sold a lot of

tickets, but lacked substance.

With Forrest Gump, Zemeckis has turned his resume upside down: Now he's working in the real world, telling a story about ordinary people.

But he can't shake his old habits. He's still faking it.

Early in the movie, Gump looks down at his shoes and says: "Mamma said they'd take me anywhere. She said they were magic shoes." The same can be said of Zemeckis' camera and his post-production team.

From the opening shot of an apparently free-floating (but actually computer-choreographed) feather to the film's final

credits, Forrest Gump showcases an array of moviemaking tricks to bind together its fanciful tale.

To watch Forrest Gump, you would think star Tom Hanks spent months learning to play ping-pong. Instead, his table tennis prowess is largely the result of a special effect: He played without a ball, to the sound of a metronome to keep the rhythm. The ball was added later.

When Gump speaks at an antiwar protest, the 100,000 people gathered near the Lincoln Memorial are actually 1,500 extras filmed over and over again at different locations around the reflecting pool. Through digital compositing, they become a seamless throng. And near the movie's end, the birds flying over Jenny's grave were enhanced by a special team.

Even the music seems manipulative. The movie's nearly 50 pop songs are used rather predictably.

The best-selling Forrest Gump soundtrack uses so many familiar songs, in fact, that other producers are now struggling to find recordings for their movie soundtracks not on the Forrest Gump list.

Just before a Vietnam ambush we hear the lyric

Something's Happening Here from Buffalo Springfield's For What It's Worth. Later, a hippie says, "anybody want to go to San Francisco?" The next musical cue is Scott McKenzie singing San Francisco.

Apollo 11 lands on the moon. Roll the Fifth Dimension's Aquarius. The most obvious song may be Love Her Madly, played as Jenny leaves an abusive boyfriend; The Doors sing as she's walking out the door... as she's walking out the door.

Despite all that, a lot of people love Forrest Gump, and the film's positive word-of-mouth is responsible for its runaway success.

But what, ultimately, is Forrest Gump about? And, more specifically, what do the film's effects accomplish? That you don't have to be smart to lead a wise life? That times change but people remain the same?

Given the movie's hyperrealism, when something doesn't add up in Forrest Gump, it sticks out. You can't dismiss it because "it's just a movie." It's "true life."

Once you dive into a pool of storytelling honesty, you have to swim in it, too.

Women would have invented direction differently

By Bob Thomas

The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES — If a woman had devised the directing job, it would be an entirely different craft, says Caroline Thompson, the screenwriter who directed the current movie version of Black Beauty.

"We like to reflect, and there is no reflection time in the making of a film," she said of women in a recent interview. "The economics make sure of that. But I must say I got used to living on adrenaline, and I really got a kick out of it."

Thompson was enjoying a thriving career as the writer of such films as Edward Scissorhands, The Addams Family (co-writer), Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey and The Secret

Garden. When Warner Bros. offered her the chance to write and direct Black Beauty, she jumped at it.

"I loved the book as a kid," she said. "Having been a horse nut, it was a book that my parents gave me early on, and it was one of my absolute favorites — because I loved feeling what the horse felt."

Author Anna Sewall told the story through the horse's eyes. The title page of the 1877 novel read: Black Beauty And His Friends, translated from the Equine By Anna Sewall.

Previous films — four versions had been made — took the human point of view. The Thompson movie is narrated by the

horse itself, as interpreted by Alan Cumming.

"To me, that's the only way to tell the story. I never hesitated for a moment," Thompson said. "It's chancy, yes. But the animal is such a clear channel of emotions that if you pay attention to them, they really tell you what they're feeling."

"The voice-over enhances the story. But I believe that even without it, you'd know what that animal is feeling."

For a first-time director, "Black Beauty was not easy task. The movie was to be shot in England on numerous locations, with fires, storms, crowd scenes and other challenges. Besides the English cast, Thompson would be directing beauty

in almost all the scenes, which would include other animals as well.

Thompson talked about why she shouldered the task:

"One reason is: Why not? I was eager to find out what the next stage would be like, to wrestle with my own material. Writing a script is a very distinct experience, and I love it," she said.

"To me, it's like writing a sonnet; it's a perfect form. I can let go inside of it and have fun with it. But over the years, watching other directors and wondering, 'that's not how I would do it,' that's one element. And I don't know of any director who might have shared my love for this animal. That's what it is: A love song."

Caroline Thompson grew up near Washington, D.C., the daughter of a lawyer and a teacher. Shortly after graduation with honours in English and classic literature from Amherst College, she departed for Los Angeles, but not with movies in mind.

"I guess I wanted to re-invest, to get away from my past," she reflected. "I love the '20s, and there was a big feeling of the '20s in this town when I got here 15 years ago."

She wrote a novel, Firstborn, supporting herself by doing book reviews and some journalism. Director Penelope Spheeris (The Beverly Hillbillies, The Little Rascals) wanted to turn the book into a film,

and the pair collaborated on a screenplay. Nothing came of it, but Thompson got an agent. He introduced her to Tim Burton, who had made a splash with Pee-Wee's Big Adventure.

The meeting resulted in Edward Scissorhands, and both Thompson and Burton were on their way. They later joined on The Nightmare Before Christmas.

Thompson would love to direct again.

"I really enjoyed it," she said. "I will write again. I have a project with Gus Van Sant (Drugstore Cowboy, My Own Private Idaho), and I can hardly wait to get started on that. I follow my nose, where it leads me is where I'll go."

Film-making — a tool for development in Guinea

By Julie Van Hove

Since the death of Sékou Touré, in 1984, Guinea, which is open once more, has encouraged numerous business and cultural ventures. Paradoxically, films, which are a reputedly expensive medium, seem to have already gained priority in terms of financing and international reputation.

PARIS — When Tiliwel Diallo, the national head of culture, once again granted three million francs to Rhéa Productions, a Paris company, for a new film project in Guinea, he confirmed the international success of their earlier co-production Djembefola, in 1991. "I measured the impact of the film on the dynamism of production in other projects of cultural development," the head of culture explains, "and especially on the policy of opening up Guinea and of enhancing her image abroad."

Djembefola tells the story of a djembe percussionist, Mamady Keita, who returns to his village after being away for twenty years. In its subject, Laurent Chevallier's film was a documentary, but in its form it bordered on fiction. Indeed, the direc-

tor had decided to put those playing their own story back into their real situation. The result was emotion and spontaneity.

Laurent Chevallier uses that same technique again today. He shoots the last scenes of this new French and Guinean co-production in Conakry and Kouroussa. It is a film adaptation of the classic of West African literature, The Black Child by the Guinean Camara Laye.

The director has kept the main storyline of the novel which was written forty years ago and is still studied in French-speaking Africa and in France. It is the sensitive account of magnified childhood memories, one of those tales that are often written in exile to rekindle the memory and to fill nostalgia.

This was the case for Camara Laye, in exile in

Paris, where he was finishing his studies, in 1953. The negro movement was just beginning to lead black men towards their independence and, at the evocation of his country, Camara's style welled up with an emotion that had remained intact.

Young Baba Camara, a descendant of Laye's, who was brought up in the same Malinke country, had to go through all the stages from initiation and carefree youth to circumcision, and then, finally to confront the city and modernity, for himself and in front of the cameras. Indeed, Baba had never left Kouroussa and the ceremony of the circumcision, which is usually secret, was delayed by a year for the needs of the film.

Today, Laurent Chevallier is filming the (adapted) story that Camara Laye had written in 1953. It is the tale of a kid from the bush who becomes a child of the city. It provides him with the opportunity to present life in a village in Guinea, with the family, the upbringing, folklore, and popular beliefs and traditions. He will also make the public reflect on exile and the shock between cultures.

Just as with Djembefola, Laurent Chevallier is using a Guinean team to

make the film and his actors are not professionals. "In addition to the work of adapting the fiction itself," he says, "I spent several weeks making tests with my little video camera, filming the life of the Camaras and having them talk, which enabled me to choose my main roles and to get a better grasp of the necessary changes in relation to the characters described by Camara Laye."

"Although black youngsters play football today and wear Michael Jackson tee-shirts," he adds, "the elders in the village still tell them the great history of Emperor Soundjata Keita, the founder of the Mandingo empire in the 12th century. Traditional values are confronted by images of modernism, often imported from the West into a quickly changing society. It is this confrontation of values, which is sometimes brutal, but whose stakes are important, which leads me not to make a historical reconstruction of the black child. This delicate work will enable me to capture emotion from the reality and so to tell the story of a young African boy today."

The choice of this kind of "reality film" is not only an original aesthetic



A scene from Laurent Chevallier's film, The Black Child

choice. Through the professions of film-making, it provides the Guineans with the opportunity to finally take part in free expression and in the emancipation of a generation which is to build the "post Sékou Touré" society, without any inhibition.

This undertaking is supported by France since, on

Dec. 21 last, the co-production agreements were signed between the National Cinema Centre and Guinea.

When, in 1991, Laurent Chevallier had returned to Balandougou, the place where Djembefola had been filmed, to show it to the villagers, he had been given an overwhelming

welcome. It was then that he had understood that there was now a tie between the Mandingoes and the Parisians. So how could he accept the fact that the village which had given him the characters, the technicians, the setting and the magic of the film had no school?

The Rhéa Productions

team and its head, Béatrice Kerc, set about gathering the necessary funds and work on building a school in Balandougou began at the same time as the shooting of The Black Child, last December. The two jobs were to be completed at the same time, at the beginning of the hot season — L'Actualité En France.

A sign that someone is listening

Deaf people can suffer terrible mental anguish unless someone learns to speak their language

By Jenny Knight
Imagine being in a mental hospital where the nurses, psychiatrists and patients all speak a foreign language. In your frantic efforts to be understood you wave your hands and gesticulate wildly. You are labelled aggressive.

Years pass. You are given medication and kept locked up. Then you are sent somewhere where people speak your language. You explain your frustrations, understand what the psychiatrist says and in a few months are well enough to be discharged.

This nightmare scenario will be readily recognised by deaf psychiatric patients. There are only three units in Britain for deaf patients where the staff use sign language. The units — in London, Birmingham and Manchester — have all dealt with patients who have spent years locked away. In one of them, a special unit for children help to ensure they never have to suffer the desperate confusions of adult deaf mentally ill people.

The deaf unit at Springfield Hospital in Wandsworth, London, is unique in Britain in having a child psychiatrist for the deaf. Dr. Peter Hindley sees about 60 children or adolescents a year. "Most families with deaf children cope well, but deaf children have the full range of emotional and behaviour

problems that hearing children might experience," says Dr. Hindley. "Deaf children also experience anxiety and depression, but diagnosis is difficult if you are not skilled in sign language. The largest group we see have conduct problems like aggression. Lack of communication affects psychological and social development and, because communication is difficult, parents can be over-controlling."

"The simplest thing we do is to get families together, using an experienced sign language interpreter. Often it is their first opportunity of talking in a relaxed way," says Dr. Hindley.

Eight-year-old Carl was referred to the unit because of behaviour problems. His family was counselled and the school advised on behaviour management techniques. Over six months he showed a great improvement. His parents had an opportunity to talk about their feelings and his effect on their marriage. A deaf member of staff helped them to understand how Carl saw the world. They realised how confused he had been whenever he had seen his parents arguing because he couldn't understand what it was about.

In some families, deaf children are made scapegoats. "They are blamed for everything and



Dr. Nick Kitson

rejected by both parents and siblings," says Dr. Hindley. "It is possible to change behaviour and attitudes through family therapy. But for some of our teenagers the best thing we can do is to help them separate from their families in the least painful way."

Research shows deaf children suffer higher rates of physical and sexual abuse. They can be targeted by abusive adults because of their difficulty in reporting abuse.

Dr. Hindley says: "Adults always find it difficult to believe children who say they are being

abused. It is harder if they are deaf. We are often the first to ask the children what they are thinking and feeling. Without good signing we wouldn't get to first base in terms of understanding their perception of the problem. Suddenly, hearing parents know what their child is saying."

The children and adults at Springfield, and the other centres, are the lucky ones. Many deaf people are still housed in ordinary mental hospitals, becoming either increasingly disruptive or withdrawn. Hearing people tend to think the deaf should be able to com-

municate by writing. They don't realise that those born deaf or deafened in the first few years of life tend to have only a poor grasp of English. For many deaf people sign language is their only fluent language.

Psychiatrists used to believe that depression was uncommon in deaf people, who were instead prone to behaviour problems. Once the Springfield unit opened, the proportions of the psychiatric disorders dealt with changed dramatically. The figures for depression quadrupled while numbers suffering emotional problems doubled. The proportion of

those suffering conduct disorder halved.

The unit opened in 1971, almost by accident, when a nurse with deaf parents and a consultant set up a day group. Other hospitals in the area demanded their troublesome deaf patients should be allowed to join. A study in 1972, commissioned by the Royal Association in Aid of Deaf People, emphasised the need for change. It showed that South West Thames had 10 times more deaf patients in mental hospitals than their population size would have indicated.

Sign language is the key. One third of Spring-

field's staff is deaf. One is a social worker, one a drama therapist and one training as a psycho-dynamic counsellor. The rest are in unqualified posts.

Herbert Marvin, 40, is a deaf advisor at Springfield. He has been deaf from birth and is married to a deaf wife. They have three hearing sons. He was working as a carpenter when he saw an advertisement for staff.

"I never thought I could become a professional mental health worker," he says. "In the past there were few opportunities for deaf people. I went to a deaf boarding school and had a good time with other deaf children. When I left I was dropped into a hearing world with no back-up."

"When I came here the patients had no experience of working with deaf staff. Seeing deaf staff gives them new role models. When patients arrive, their attitude to deafness is negative. But they watch how I behave and see me arguing with hearing people and it gives them confidence."

Dr. Nick Kitson, consultant psychiatrist and head of the unit, says: "The health authority gave me nine months to learn sign language. I visited psychiatric units for deaf people in America and realised the importance of employing deaf

people fluent in sign language. It is a very sophisticated language capable of expressing everything you can say in English.

Deaf people who try to communicate in writing are quite often misunderstood. Experiments have shown that general psychiatrists cannot distinguish between the writings of a mentally ill person and those of a deaf person because most deaf people have a poor grammatical grasp of English.

Barry, a profoundly deaf man in his twenties, was sent to Rampton top security hospital after he attacked a passer-by. During the years he spent there his behaviour was explosively violent. In an attempt at rehabilitation, Barry was sent to Springfield. He was put in an open ward and found it difficult to cope with the freedom. At his own request he went back to Rampton for a period. Now he is back at Springfield, progressing steadily by working with a deaf member of staff who helps him to cope with violent impulses.

"He had communication problems and was rejected by his family," says Dr. Kitson. "Being able to make himself understood made the difference to him. He didn't need psychiatric help but he did need fluent communication and psychological counselling" — The Independent.

In weight control, an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure

TORONTO (AP) — An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure: People who avoid gaining weight as they approach middle age dramatically lower their heart disease risk and may entirely prevent diabetes, researchers said.

Young adults who are not overweight and who keep their weight constant — simply by not overeating — can avoid these curses of age, said Barbara Hansen, a physiologist at the University of Maryland.

The findings, which Ms. Hansen reported at the seventh international congress on obesity, were the product of a 10-year, \$1 million government-funded study of rhesus monkeys.

Monkeys were used for two reasons, she said. One is that they get heavier during middle age in precisely the same way humans do. The second is that because of their short

life spans, a 10-year study in monkeys is equivalent to a 30-year study in people.

Many studies have shown the value of losing weight, but this is one of the first to conclusively demonstrate the value of preventing weight gain, she said.

"People are not paying attention to their weight until they get to a point where they feel uncomfortable, unattractive or they've had a heart

attack," Ms. Hansen said. The time to take action is much earlier, she said.

People typically eat more as they age and begin to gain weight. To keep weight stable, people don't have to diet; they merely have to avoid overeating. "This is not starvation or restriction," Ms. Hansen said.

And exercise, while it has other health benefits, was not a factor in this result; the researchers did not monitor the amount of

exercise that the monkeys got during the study.

"The study really is fascinating," said Dr. Richard Atkinson of the University of Wisconsin in Madison. "It's a lot easier to keep weight off than to lose it."

Earlier studies had shown that restricting food intake in rats could increase lifespan, but it wasn't clear whether that would apply to humans, Ms. Hansen said.

The elimination of diabetes and the dramatic reduction in heart disease

risk may lengthen the lives of the monkeys — and could do the same in humans, Ms. Hansen said. "We suspect these monkeys are going to have a long lifespan," she said.

Ms. Hansen and Noni Bodkin, also a physiologist at the University of Maryland, studied 27 monkeys whose age of about 10 when the study began made them roughly equivalent to 25-year-old humans.

Eight of the monkeys were given constant diets

to keep their weight steady. Nineteen others were allowed to eat whatever they wanted. Like their human counterparts, the monkeys who ate whatever they wanted gradually gained weight during five to nine years of observation.

Of the 19 who gained weight, 4 had developed diabetes and 6 were on the way to developing it by the time they reached an age equivalent to about 50 in humans.

Meanwhile, the monkeys whose weight was kept constant showed no sign of diabetes or of the changes that precede it.

Furthermore, the monkeys whose weight was held steady had lower levels of triglycerides than the other monkeys and higher levels of the so-called good cholesterol, otherwise known as high-density lipoprotein.

That meant that their risks of hardening of the arteries and heart disease were far lower, Ms. Hansen said.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

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2 World's seven

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4 Snoddy snuff

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Cuban refugee weapon poses problems for U.S.

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Poor and almost friendless, Communist-ruled Cuba is using the one thing it has no shortage of — refugees — to extract concessions from its old foe, the United States, at talks in New York, U.S. analysts say.

Washington has all the military and economic clout it could desire, but in Cuba it faces an adversary that has nothing to lose except extra mouths it cannot afford to feed.

U.S. and Cuban officials opened talks Sept. 1 with the Americans pressing Cuba to halt the flow of people fleeing their country by boat — some 25,000 since President Bill Clinton said Aug. 19 they could no longer come to the United States.

In return, Washington has said it is ready to increase the number of Cubans who can immigrate legally. But, though details of the talks are sketchy, spokesmen for both sides indicate they have made little progress.

The question is, how long can the United States go on without an agreement, with around 1,000 Cubans a day currently being picked up in rafts by coast guard and naval vessels and transported to the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay on Cuba?

"Clearly, the United States has a more pressing need for an agreement than Cuba," says Matias Travieso-Diaz, a Washington-based lawyer who heads a private project on future U.S.-Cuban relations.

"How can you reach an agreement when you don't

even have an agreed-on agenda? These talks could go on for some time."

While Washington has talked about letting in some 20,000 legal Cuban immigrants, compared with the 2,000 or so who currently immigrate, the Cubans are reported to have suggested that something like 100,000 be let in over a specified period.

But most analysts believe the exact number of migrants is relatively unimportant to Havana, whose real interest is to win concessions that could shore up its rickety economy and uncertain political future.

"The Cubans are going to use this weapon of refugees," Mr. Travieso-Diaz said. "They don't have many weapons."

The Cuban negotiators, led by former foreign minister Ricardo Alarcon, have made no secret of the fact that their main concern is to broaden the agenda of the talks.

Above all, they want to discuss the U.S. trade embargo dating from 1962, which Havana argues is the main reason for the catastrophic state of the Cuban economy — and hence the outpouring of refugees.

But the Clinton administration is insisting with equal vigour that it is going to discuss migration and nothing else. U.S. officials are saying the New York talks are not necessarily going to end in agreement.

"We are showing some flexibility as to the numbers... but we've got concerns we're pursuing in these negotiations," State Department Spokesman Mike McCurry said

Tuesday.

Despite Washington's need for an agreement, analysts say Mr. Clinton can hardly cave in to the Cuban demands.

The fact that the United States is preparing to expand capacity for refugees at Guantanamo to 60,000 — compared with about 22,000 there now — and place up to 10,000 more in Panama suggests it is ready to hold fast for a while yet.

"The United States is in a difficult position, because opening up any subject (at the talks) would create political difficulties," Mr. Travieso-Diaz said. "With upcoming elections (to Congress), it could be a campaign issue."

Analysts say domestic political considerations lie behind Mr. Clinton's apparently contradictory policy of slamming the door on Cuban boat people while tightening the embargo on Cuba.

The end to uncontrolled immigration reflects a mood in Florida, where most of the boat people have washed up, that the state cannot take many more.

But the tough political line is popular with the powerful lobby deeply hostile to Cuban President Fidel Castro, the man who posed a unique threat to the United States 32 years ago by having Soviet nuclear missiles stationed in Cuba.

The question remains why, if Washington is so keen on legal Cuban immigration, it has in recent years let in only about one tenth of the almost 28,000 it could legally admit.

The answer, State de-

POOR AND FRIENDLESS: A Cuban refugee aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Monaghan cries while holding her child moments after being picked up at sea off the coast of Cuba. The woman, who had unsuccessfully tried to get political asylum by forcing her way into the Belgian Embassy compound in Cuba a few months ago, was taken to the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (AFP photo)



partment officials say, is that so few Cubans measure up to the requirements of U.S. law. For example, many recent fugitives have no kin in the United States. If Washington is going to let in more immigrants under a deal with Cuba, it is essentially going to have to bend the rules to put Cubans at the head of the queue, experts say.

Aral Sea dies of neglect

By James Kynge
Reuters

NUKUS, Uzbekistan — The world's response to the dying of the Aral Sea has been full of sound and fury, signifying little to the people being slowly poisoned by one of the worst ecological disasters on the globe.

The simple truth is that, in nearly three years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, almost nothing has been done to alleviate the shrinking of the sea or to address the increasing ill-health of those living on its shores.

The formerly Soviet Central Asian republics around the sea have little to spend on the problem. The international aid community has drafted numerous documents but has yet to commit substantial sums of money.

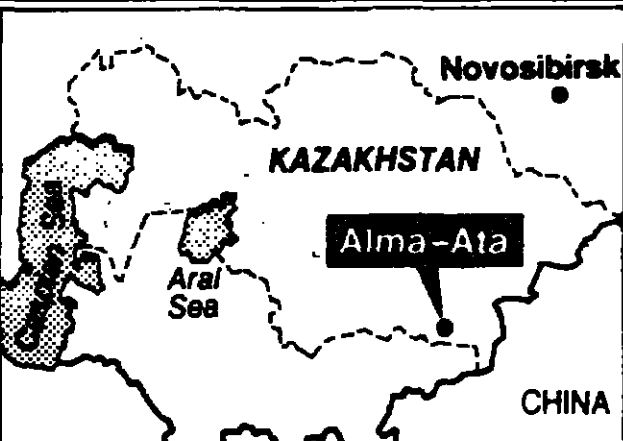
"People here have a kind of joke: If all the experts who come to study the Aral Sea brought with them a bucket of water, then there would be no Aral problem," said Marina Babanazarova, director of a museum in Nukus, a city near the sea in northwestern Uzbekistan.

The Aral was once the world's fourth biggest freshwater lake but heavy irrigation from two mighty rivers, the Amu and Syr Darya, which feed it, have diminished its volume by two-thirds since 1960.

The former sea bed is now a desert crust with salt and dried agrochemicals washed down with irrigation water from cotton fields in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and, to a lesser extent, Kazakhstan.

The Aral's shrinkage has reduced a moderating effect it used to exert on the local climate. Summers are now hotter, winters colder and increasingly frequent storms whip up salt and chemicals and spread them over a wide area.

People around the sea drink water containing as much as 10 times the international maximum of toxic chemicals, official figures show. The incidence of infant and maternal mortality rates, congenital defects,



anaemia, respiratory and other disorders is alarmingly high.

In their biggest effort to address the problem so far, the presidents of four Central Asian nations and Kazakhstan promised early this year to donate one per cent of their gross national product into an Aral Sea fund.

None have done so, Uzbek officials and international aid workers said.

"Each republic is using this one per cent for their own purposes. There is not one kopek (cent) in the Aral fund," said Rasbergen Reimov, a scientist who helped compile a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on the sea.

"Uzbekistan can't and won't do anything," Mr. Reimov added.

At the same meeting, the five presidents ordered the establishment of an interstate council to study ways to combat the causes and alleviate the effects of the dying sea.

They elected as its chairman Amanzhar Ilmanov, Turkmenistan's minister for water economy and supply, — the same man who has told foreign journalists that the sea is doomed to die.

"In 30 years time it will be a dry, dead sea," Mr. Ilmanov said in the interview in March 1993.

With the commitment from Riparian states poor, the international community — its resources already stretched by the development needs of the former Soviet Union — has had to shoulder the burden of finding an adequate solution.

But so far little has been done. After two years studying the sea, World Bank specialists have recommended another phase of research and feasibility studies.

At a June donor meeting in Paris to finance this second phase of research, the World Bank raised \$31.4 million against a hoped-for 40 million, said Farvez Hassan, chief of the World Bank's Regional Mission for Central Asia in

Tashkent.

"I am confident there will be no problems in raising the 40 million," Mr. Hassan said.

But while the initial \$40 million — to be awarded mainly to foreign consultancy companies — will be in grant form, an estimated \$200 million needed thereafter for concrete projects will go to Central Asian countries as interest-bearing loans.

Even if the international community comes up with the \$200 million, it is uncertain whether the impoverished nations will want to borrow money for a scheme which generates no wealth.

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He said the feasibility study phase should start by the end of this year. If finance is forthcoming, the \$200 million executive phase may start about a year later.

"But of course it is going to take time. You know how difficult it is with the bureaucracy here," Mr. Hassan said.

Seven programmes in the executive phase, mostly spanning three years, aim to improve water quality, conserve water, increase the flow into the Aral Sea from the Amu and Syr Darya rivers and restore wetlands around some of the sea.

Sri Lanka sanctuary treats elephants as humans

By Rahul Sharma
Reuters

COLOMBO — Every morning for the past five months Wijay Pal Ranbanda has been talking to a blind elephant, trying to tame the wild tusk.

This huge animal, having lost its sight to old age, terrorised north Sri Lankan villages, trampling huts and crops in its confusion, before being captured and put into Ranbanda's care at Sri Lanka's only elephant sanctuary.

It now recognises Ranbanda's voice and even consents to be fed by trained elephant drivers known as Mahouts.

Ranbanda is the curator of the Pinnawala Sanctuary near Colombo, where nearly 60 elephants ranging from two-month-old babies to 50-year-old taskers are

cared for in a bid to save the animal from extinction in Sri Lanka.

Where once 20,000 wild elephants roamed in 1950s, only about 3,000 survive as a growing human population takes over the jungles and drives them from their natural habitat.

Hungry animals attack crops, forcing farmers to shoot or entrap them. Poachers, though few in number now, still hunt tuskers for their ivory.

The sanctuary, launched in 1975 with six baby elephants, employs 26 people, including Ranbanda and 16 Mahouts who tend the elephants. Some of the animals have been bred in captivity and others caught in the wild.

It does not aim to return or introduce elephants into the wild. Instead, it is a breeding sanctuary for

animals that are injured or abandoned by wild herds.

"We have nine new babies now. There are six she-elephants who can breed. One of them is pregnant and is expected to deliver early in 1995," said Ranbanda.

The sanctuary, part of the Colombo Zoo, has a drug store and veterinarians call if elephants fall ill. "I am a vet myself and there are others available on phone with advice if they are needed," Ranbanda said.

He said the babies were fed milk five times a day and bathed each morning at a nearby river. Baby elephants roll in water and try to climb their mothers, who soak themselves to beat the heat.

Baby elephants are fed on milk till they are four

years' old, when they need 250 kg (550 lbs) of grass and branches to satisfy their huge appetites. It's an expensive undertaking: each baby drinks milk worth 10,000 rupees (\$200) a day.

Ranbanda said most of the sanctuary's financial needs were met through ticket sales to the many tourists who come to see impatient baby elephants drink gallons of milk from bottles and frolic in water with their mothers.

Tourists feed baby elephants and many of them also sit on the river-side to watch the elephants bathe.

"It's not always you see so many baby elephants walking down the road and having a bath together. It's a great place," said Laura Middleton, a tourist from Washington.

But tourists looking forward to an elephant ride at the sanctuary will be disappointed.

Rides were planned some time ago and enclosures built for tourists to mount the animals, but the Mahouts refused to allow tourists onto their charges, saying the sanctuary was not an amusement park.

Ranbanda, who has worked at the sanctuary for the past 12 years, said the Mahouts agreed only to tourists touching the animals.

Elephants from the sanctuary are not sold but are sometimes given away to temples to be used in religious ceremonies or as gifts by the government.

In 1984, President Junius Jayawardane gave a Pinnawala baby to then U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Tourism up in new S. Africa, despite crime

By David Tucker
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — The number of foreign tourists visiting the new, post-apartheid South Africa is soaring, despite a crime wave, industrial unrest and the image soaring, despite a crime wave, industrial unrest and the image of anarchy and violence elsewhere on the continent.

"As long as nothing drastic happens on the political front we are in for a good year," said Chris Du Toit, executive director of the Association of Southern African Travel Agents.

"But it is a volatile situation. Crime and strikes here don't stop people coming, but if you have a political incident, like a bombing, then you get big cancellations," he said.

Mr. Toit said people selling South Africa had to overcome perceptions in some would-be visitors' minds that unrest elsewhere on the continent was inextricably linked to the situation in South Africa.

So despite the fact that Rwanda is 2,500 km away from South Africa, the catastrophe there is a dampening factor for tourism here.

"Rwanda is in Africa, so is South Africa... If Rwanda gets a bad press, so does the rest of the continent. People think that's Africa," he said.

Mr. Du Toit said despite the problems, including a wave of strikes by workers seeking the better life promised by President Nelson Mandela, tour oper-

ators had sold all their South African holiday packages until the end of the year.

"Our marketing efforts are clearly aimed at identifying South Africa as a separate entity, divorced from what is happening to the north," he said, referring to Rwanda where more than 500,000 have been massacred in civil war and ethnic bloodletting.

Michael Frame, director of the Southern African Regional Tourism Council, said political stability in South Africa since Mr. Mandela's government took power after the April elections was a significant factor in encouraging tourists from abroad.

"There is a perception abroad that the overall situation has improved... even five or six months ago things looked bad, but this is no longer the case," he said.

"I'm optimistic, but I don't think there is going to be a boom."

Mr. Frame said black-ruled South Africa was now a "politically correct" place to visit.

There is an inquisitiveness about the new South Africa that we need to capitalise on. There is a huge black American market of about 14 or 15 million people with disposable incomes.

"Obviously they would not have come here during apartheid but things have changed," he said, adding that more visitors could be expected from other non-traditional markets such as

Residents and tourists alike enjoy fine sunshine and the warm Indian Ocean on a Durban beach (AFP photo)



Scandinavian countries, which supported Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) during its long struggle for power.

Asked about the effects on tourism of soaring crime in South Africa, particularly in the industrial heartland around Johannesburg, Mr. Frame said security was no worse than in any other urban concentration.

But his advice to visitors to Johannesburg, last year dubbed the murder capital of the world, was:

"Don't look like a tourist, don't go downtown at night and if you drive

through Johannesburg at night, keep your car doors locked."

One city-centre hotel, worried about the exodus of guests to suburban hotels, even offered tourists armed guards for shopping excursions. Not surprisingly there were few takers.

The South African Tourism Board said it hoped for a 10 per cent increase this year in the 3.2 million visitors who came to South Africa in 1993.

"We are expecting a big influx up until Christmas from traditional markets such as Britain, Holland

and the United States," said spokesman Martin Van Niekerk.

Most of South Africa's visitors came from other African States in 1993 — 2.5 million compared to just over 618,000 from other countries, including Europe.

While traditional South African attractions such as Cape Town and the Kruger National Park pull the most visitors, there are plans for more offbeat tourism, including tours of places made famous, or infamous, during the fight against apartheid.

Arab states resume search for free trade zone today

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states are to resume talks Thursday to discuss proposals for setting up a free trade zone which would form the nucleus of a common market.

The economy ministers of nearly half the Arab League's 22 members will meet in the Egyptian city of Alexandria to discuss a 10-year timetable for the zone, for which the Cairo-based league has carried out a feasibility study.

The ministers make up the Arab Economic Unity Council (AEUC), which was established in the early 1970s to boost flagging inter-Arab trade and investment with the aim of creating a common market in the region.

"The council will discuss

an economic strategy for the next 10 years, which includes an overall Arab free trade zone. A study in this connection has been completed with the help of the Arab League," the AEUC Secretary General Hassan Ibrahim, was quoted as saying by the United Arab Emirates news agency WAM.

Gulf officials said the study on the free zone proposed that the remaining league members join AEUC for the project, which coincides with growing talk of a Middle East market encompassing Israel and, possibly, Iran and Turkey.

Arabs have not ruled out trade dealings with their long-time foe Israel but most of them have voiced fears of

merging their economies with the Jewish state on the grounds its industrial muscle would enable it to dominate their markets.

Israel and Western countries have called for a regional market after full peace is established in the region.

"The establishment of an Arab free zone will pave the way for common market. This in turn will facilitate work for any future economic system in the Middle East," said a Gulf economy official, who requested anonymity.

Arab states signed a free trade zone accord 20 years ago but most of them have not implemented it, mainly because of political differences. Such rifts have led to more customs barriers and hit

trade among member states. According to the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), inter-Arab trade has remained below 10 per cent of their total trade over the past two decades.

The trade plunged to its lowest level in the wake of the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait after wealthy Gulf states shut their markets to products from Jordan, Sudan and other members they accused of backing Baghdad.

Experts cite other factors for low trade among Arabs, including the small production base, lack of trade financing bodies and problems associated with the infrastructure, transport, marketing, storage and red tape.

Study compares investments in Arab, Israeli economies

By Khatab Salman
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Investments in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian occupied territories represent one third of the amount of funds invested in the Israeli economy, according to a government study.

The study indicated that investments in Jordan in 1991 (last year for which figures are available) totalled \$1.09 billion, \$0.4418 in the territories, \$1.9743 in Syria, \$1.35 in Lebanon collectively totalling \$4.6749 billion and consisting 33.38 per cent of the \$14.342 billion investments in Israel.

The study, which derived its figures from annual reports of the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Oil Arab Producing Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Israeli Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) showed that the collective exports volume of goods and services of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the occupied territories was \$6.755 billion, while Israeli volume of exports was almost three fold at \$18.024 billion.

The deficit in the Israeli

trade balance was \$9.263 billion constituting less than 30 per cent of the trade volume.

The collective four Arab economies' trade deficit stood at \$5.5208 billion but constituted more than 50 per cent of their trade volume.

The private consumption (PC) of the four Arab economies was \$17.6871 billion which was only 48 per cent of the \$36.1647 Israeli PC. The \$17.7908 billion general consumption (GC) of Israel was almost 4-fold greater than that of \$4.4016 billion of the collective GC of the four Arab economies.

The study noted that gross domestic product (GDP) of the four Arab economies mentioned was merely 35.9 per cent of that of the Israeli GDP which reached \$59.1268 billion.

The study, which apparently comes in preparation for the Casablanca economic summit to be held next month, added that the gross national product (GNP) of the four Arab economies was \$21.4673 compared to \$58.1115 billion of the Israeli economy.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan noted repeatedly that a durable, just and comprehensive peace in

the region should address the income per capita gap among the countries of the region ranging from \$800 to \$900 in the occupied territories, \$1000-1200 in Jordan, and reaching \$12000-15000 a year in Israel. Israeli CBS reports noted that the Israeli government has plans to raise the per capita in Israel to \$20,000 annually by the year 2000.

The imbalanced economic conditions in the region can be noted in the population indicators of the five economies. The population of Israel totalled 5.59 million in 1992 which was merely 24 per cent of the population of four Arab countries, which totalled 20.99583 million in the same year, and only 2.2 per cent of the whole Arab World population which stood at 231.49 million in 1992.

And yet the Israeli economy enjoys comparatively high investment and production volumes with a relatively very high and incomparable per capita.

The unemployment rate in Israel is relatively high standing at 11.2 per cent of the workforce, but it is still, however, less than that of Jordan which is 15 per cent, the Lebanese of 25 per cent

and the Palestinian of more than 40 per cent excluding the Syrian low rates of a semi-socialist state-run economy standing at 5 per cent according to an old report of 1984.

Israeli inflation rates run uncontrollably at more than 14 per cent this year according to the Central Bank of Israel reports. The Israeli government inflation rates target for this year was a lower one digit figure. The Central Bank of Israel recently raised the interest rate for the eighth consecutive time to reach 14 per cent. Next year's inflation goal will range between 8 per cent and 11 per cent, according to the Israeli treasury's anti-inflation package presented this week to the government to be ratified.

The Jordanian economy enjoyed, however, a lower inflation rate of 5.5 per cent in 1993, and is expected to reach a low of less than 4 per cent by the end of this year, according to ministry of finance reports. The Jordanian economy enjoyed a steady growth of 12 per cent in the past two years. Comparative figures for the other Arab countries were not available.

World Bank transfers \$30 million for Palestinian infrastructure projects

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — The World Bank Wednesday signed an agreement to transfer \$30 million to the Palestinian self-rule government for infrastructure projects.

The money will be spent on upgrading water supplies, the sewage system, roads, power lines and schools, said Mohammad Nashashibi, the Palestinian finance minister.

Caio K. Koch-Weser, vice president of the World Bank met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza City for the signing and said more

funds would be transferred soon.

"Speed is of the essence, with the World Bank ready to do everything possible, as Chairman Arafat requested, to speed things up on the ground," Mr. Koch-Weser said.

Palestinian officials said the \$30 million was the first instalment of a total sum of \$129 to be transferred for infrastructure projects this year.

The Palestinians have complained that the aid pledged by the world community,

some \$2.3 billion over five years, was too slow in reaching the self-rule areas of Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Donors have demanded that the Palestinians establish proper accounting procedures before freeing the funds.

Asked whether the problems between the Palestinian authority and the World

Bank have been resolved, Mr. Nashashibi said: "There was just a misunderstanding on how urgently we needed the money. We wanted them to hurry up, and they wanted us to be established first as a Palestinian National Authority."

Donor countries were to meet this weekend in Paris to discuss the release of further funds to the Palestinians.

Bonn cancels DM 50m of Jordan debt

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Germany has agreed in principle to transform DM 50 million of the Kingdom's debts to Bonn into grant and an agreement to that effect would be finalised at a meeting scheduled in Germany for late October this year, according to a senior German official on a visit here.

Herbert Sahlmann told the Jordan Times that Wighard Haerdtd, secretary of state at the ministry of economic cooperation and development conveyed Bonn's message to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at a meeting held at the Royal Court Wednesday. Present at the meeting were ministers of planning, industry and trade, finance and agriculture who had earlier reviewed German-funded projects with the German official.

According to Dr. Sahlmann the DM 50 million debt relief will be in addition to the sum of DM 29.5 million earlier agreed on with the Jordanian government.

Mr. Sahlmann said Germany was requesting that the Jordanian government allocate DM 25 million of the sum to improving the environment and fighting pollution noting that details of plans for transferring the debt into grant would be worked out by experts from the two sides in the coming month.

Mr. Haerdtd, who arrived here Tuesday, on a 24 hour visit to Jordan, left for Tunis after the meeting.

Chinese reporters told to keep golden secret

BEIJING (R) — Chinese journalists who heard a minister reveal one of China's best-kept commercial secrets were told not to report it and complied with the order, government officials said Wednesday.

In response to a question, Song Ruixiang, minister of geology and mineral resources, told a news conference Monday that China's 1993 gold output was 90 tonnes.

It was the first time since 1949 that China has disclosed the level of its gold production, a figure previously jealously guarded as a state secret.

One official said domestic reporters covering the news conference were gathered afterwards and told not to report the figure.

All of them complied and national newspapers Tuesday were silent — but the semi-official China News Service gave the figure in its report of the news conference.

The official said it had not been appropriate for the minister to give the figure, since gold production is the responsibility of the gold bureau of the ministry of metallurgy.

That bureau said this week that the figure remained a secret.

A legal handbook published for internal circulation in 1987 listed gold output as a "top secret grade" piece of information, "the release of which would cause state security and interests to suffer especially severe losses."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't allow your prejudices or any criticism you have toward persons or conditions to show today or you will find yourself behind the eight-ball, where it could prove most embarrassing with the double moon square.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Contact your most fascinating friends in the morning for assistance with your finest friends. You may find it difficult to contact others after lunch.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) By contacting the influential you can enhance your career a good deal today. Take care later that a partner does not bother you in some way.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be alert to progressive ideas in the morning. Your hunches are good early in the day but not later. Be happy at home with your mate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Do whatever will please your mate during the daytime. Forget that very expensive recreation you have in mind. Be practical.

LEO: (June 22 to August 21) Contact those in business today. Be very happy at home tonight. Do nothing which can jeopardise your present security and financial position.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put more effort into your regular tasks and get far better results. Don't let communications irritate you later in the day.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get appointments set up for looking into new interests before you get to work on dull money affairs. Show a little spunk and initiative.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good day to get your home fixed-up more to your liking. Have friends in for luncheon, but not in the evening time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You get good ideas on how to add to your income in the morning. Do something about them right away. Get your property intrinsically improved.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have excellent ideas about gaining personal aims so work on them quickly, and then tonight you can relax. Avoid groups of people.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Show your originality. Avoid bigwigs who criticise you. Home is your best bet tonight. Set up appointments for later in the week.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Contact a good friend who wants to see you get ahead. Avoid new set-ups later. You can attain some desired wish. Drive with utmost care.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 1994

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Scorpio Moon tries Saturn and Mars and conjuncts Jupiter today making one of the best days this month when you can open doors and put across your programme to others who are really seeking answers.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A good day to concentrate upon your career ambitions and then to pursue them in a definite way. Bring a group of friends together later.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a good day for expansion where your career is concerned, so get into the right phases of it and accomplish a great deal.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A good day for concentrating on a trip or starting on one which can bring you greater success. Listen carefully to the ideas of an expert.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be more modern in business affairs and gain the cooperation of bigwigs. Plan some amusement with your mate. Be kind.

LEO: (June 22 to August 21) Contact successful people whose ideas are very different to your own and find out what their secret of success is. Prodigal in the evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get those new gadgets which will make your efforts easier and get you far better results than in the past.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study new forms of recreation which you and your pals can enjoy. Then get busy at your special talents. Stop worrying about finances.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Show those at home how to become more efficient and you do them and yourself a favour. But listen to their ideas too.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Try modern methods with your present enterprises and you can add to profits considerably. Confer with partners on being successful.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have fine ideas today which can easily gain you more assets and property, so do something about them quickly. Relax tonight.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your judgment and ideas are good and you can gain those personal aims which means much to you so go after them in a sure way.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day to go after more exciting personal goals. Get out of that rut which is making you nervous and very jittery towards your mate.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

There's always something new at

DAJANI'S

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Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

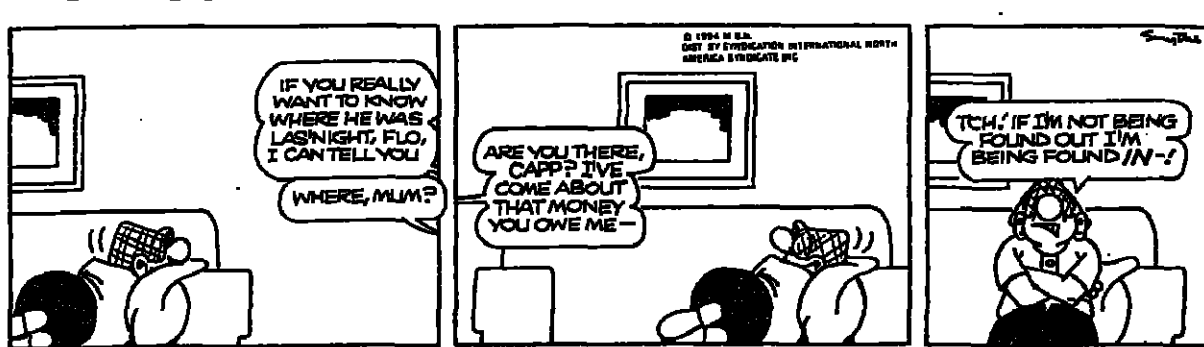


'Stanley likes to keep score. He won't give me a compliment unless I sign for it and give him a receipt!'

Peanuts



Andy Capp

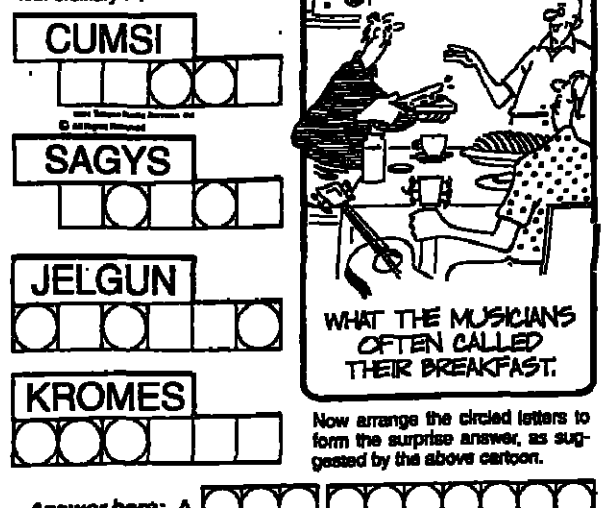


Mutt'n'Jeff



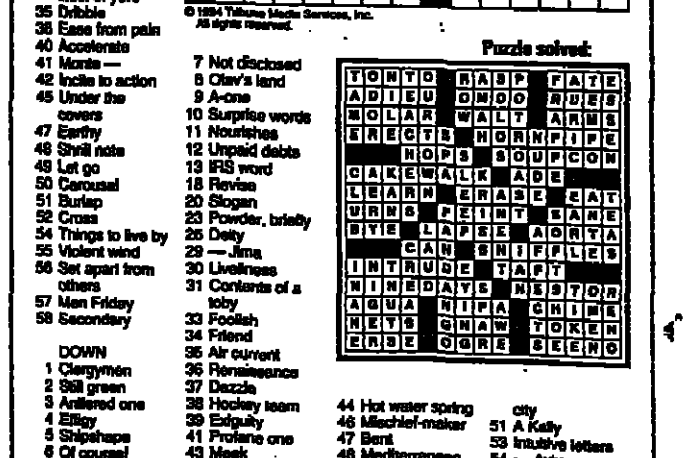
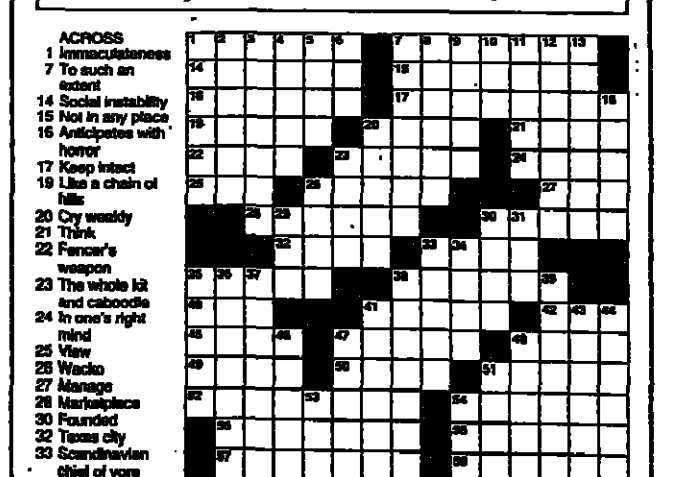
JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: A BOWL POINT

THE Daily Crossword by Glendon Patgrave



44 Hot water spring, 45 Mischief-maker, 46 Burst, 47 Inhabits letters, 48 Mediterranean, 51 A Kelly, 52 Inhabits letters, 54 Awh.

هذا من الأمل

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 8/8/94	Tokyo Close 8/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5525	1.5502
Deutsche Mark	1.5438	1.5492
Swiss Franc	1.2945	1.2987
French Franc	5.2910	5.2889**
Japanese Yen	98.65	99.15
European Currency Unit	1.2350	1.2320**

USD per JSD

European Opening 8:30 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.56	4.68	5.06	5.50
Sterling Pound	4.87	5.31	5.75	6.37
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	5.93	5.25
Swiss Franc	3.93	4.06	4.25	4.56

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Buy	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.0770	1.0824
Deutsche Mark	0.4488	0.4510
Swiss Franc	0.5353	0.5380
French Franc	0.1309	0.1316
Japanese Yen	0.7013	0.7048
Dutch Guilder	0.4000	0.4020
Swedish Krona	0.0441	0.0443
Italian Lira	0.0441	0.0443
Belgian Franc	0.0441	0.0443

* Per 100

Currency	Buy	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8270	1.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040875	0.041885
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3480
Qatari Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7860	1.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.2725	0.3135
Cypriot Pound	1.4040	1.4985

* Per 100

Coffee prices look set to resume explosive rally

LONDON (R) — The world price of coffee looked set Wednesday to resume its meteoric rise on revived concern for supply from Brazil, the biggest exporter.

Early London trading saw November coffee futures touch \$4,060 per tonne. That was up \$107 from Tuesday and not far short of an 8½-year high set on July 11 of \$4,083.

Coffee has leapt from around \$1,000 in February in a worldwide commodity price boom that has been raising the spectre of inflation as the global economy emerges from recession.

Coffee's recent gains were triggered mainly by severe frosts in Brazil that may have damaged 30 per cent of its

1995-96 crop. The frost has been followed by dry weather in Brazil.

The latest concern is that Brazil may also halt auctions of government stocks and switch some exports to the home market to keep down prices to its own coffee drinkers.

"Because of the harvest losses from the frosts we do not consider that at this moment we can recommend continuing the auctions," an official said in Brasilia Tuesday.

Frederico Robalinho, trade policy secretary at the commerce ministry, said in alternative may be a "quasi compulsory" scheme for exporters to divert a proportion of bags to the home market.

First Islamic bank approved for Palestinian self-rule areas

AMMAN (R) — A group of 60 Jordanian and Palestinian investors are launching a \$21 million Islamic bank, the first of its kind in Palestinian self-rule areas, the head of its investor committee said Wednesday.

"The Islamic Arab Palestinian Bank will work according to Islamic rules and its aim is to get deposits of the sector that does not believe in commercial banks," Tawfik Al Fakhouri, a prominent banker heading investors laying the groundwork for formation of the bank, told Reuters.

It plans to begin operations in early 1995.

Mr. Fakhouri, chairman of the Bank of Jordan — a leading Jordanian bank and the first to resume operations in the Israeli-occupied West

Bank under the Middle East peace process, met PLO chief Yasser Arafat in Gaza last Thursday to get his approval.

"I got verbal acceptance and they promised to give the necessary approvals after studying the project, and in fact we were notified on Tuesday that the license would be granted on Wednesday," Mr. Fakhouri said.

The Islamic bank's 15 million dinar (\$21.5 million) capital is being raised from investors in the territories, from Jordan and the Arab World and from financial institutions. He would not disclose the percentages or the identities of investors.

Mr. Fakhouri said 75 per cent of the capital would be raised in a private issue by its founders, with a 50 per cent

first instalment to be paid after the convening of a committee of founders soon.

A public issue in both territories and Jordan will allow subscription of the remaining 25 per cent, he added.

Each founder is allocated between 10,000 shares and a maximum of 200,000 shares to allow a wide ownership base, Mr. Fakhouri said. One share is priced at 1 dinar (\$1.40).

A team from the investors was to go Wednesday to the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip to get the license. The Palestinian National Authority's finance head notified them on Tuesday they could get their license.

The bank would be the first licensed bank to follow Islamic banking rules in the occu-

pied territories. It does not offer interest but profit sharing.

"Before the end of the year we hope to complete all the official papers and arrangements and that the bank would begin its work in the first third of 1995," Mr. Fakhouri said.

It would focus on credit for industrial, commercial and housing projects in the teeming Gaza Strip with plans to extend into the West Bank. Mr. Fakhouri said he hoped Israel would let the bank operate eventually in Arab areas of the Jewish state.

"We are about to enter into peace and must prove ourselves, and having failed in our wars with Israel let us achieve success through peace," he said.

Malaysia lifts ban against British business

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia Wednesday lifted a seven-month old ban on public contracts for British firms, imposed after a spate of media reports suggesting Anglo-Malaysian trade was tainted with corruption.

Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the cabinet decided at its weekly meeting Wednesday to lift the ban with immediate effect.

It has already cost British firms hundreds of millions of dollars in lost contracts.

"British companies will be able to participate fully in all areas of government contracts," Mr. Anwar told reporters after an opening ceremony at a local stock brokerage.

From now on British bids on government contracts would be considered on the basis of their price and competitiveness, Mr. Anwar said.

Officials here seethed last year during British press and parliamentary investigations into links between £234 million (\$346 million) in British aid for a Malaysian hydroelectric dam and Kuala Lumpur's purchase of £1 billion (\$1.5 billion) of British defence equipment in 1988.

But the latest straw was a story in the Sunday Times of London saying a British construction firm was prepared to offer Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad a \$50,000 bribe to win a building contract.

The ban on British firm was imposed within a matter of days.

Mr. Mahathir later insisted that the ban would be lifted only when the British press "stops printing lies."

Mr. Anwar said the decision to lift the ban was made after a long review period.

Kodak sells health care subsidiary to refocus on photography

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Eastman Kodak's sale of its health care subsidiary Diagnostics Cliniques to Johnson and Johnson for \$1 billion is the last stage of Kodak's plan to refocus on photography.

Kodak's new chief executive officer, George Fisher, who announced the plan in May, said the sale "demonstrates our resolve to rapidly achieve our strategic goal of total dedication and resource commitment to our core imaging businesses."

Still, the speed of the sales over the past three months surprised analysts.

Kodak got rid of its pharmaceutical subsidiary Sterling Winthrop by selling it to the French company Elf Sanofi for \$1.6 billion in June. Tuesday, Kodak announced it was selling the

diagnostics firm to Smith-Kline Beecham PLC for \$2.9 billion, more than had been expected.

The three sales brought Kodak a total of \$5 billion, which it will likely use to reduce its debt. Kodak is the 20th largest U.S. company with \$20 billion in revenues and a \$1.5 billion loss in 1993. That loss had been expected to grow to \$7.5 billion by late 1993.

"This is what has always kept Eastman Kodak from investing," said Robert Nelson, an analyst with the U.S. bond rating firm Standard and Poor's.

The U.S. company Colgate-Palmolive Co., the Anglo-Netherlands firm Unilever, the British company Reckitt and Colman PLC are among Kodak's holdings.

French wine makers heady over '94 harvest

PARIS (R) — France's wine makers are in heady mood about this year's harvest, predicting it will yield a vintage of high quality but only average quantity.

That result, they say, could herald strong demand and a slight upward pressure on prices.

Across the best-known wine regions, growers and producers are pleased about 1994 as they savor the prospect of memorable wines at stable or slightly higher prices.

"We are happy men," Hubert Bouetillere of the Bordeaux Wine Council said Wednesday. "At the moment, the conditions for harvest are exceptional."

A hot summer with much sun and just the right amount of rainfall have combined to produce an early maturing harvest from Bordeaux to Burgundy and Beaujolais, from Champagne to the Rhone, wine industry experts report.

Definitive evaluations, of course, will be made only after the grapes are picked, crushed, fermented and put into casks and bottles. But growers and producers have already conducted laboratory tests on the grapes as they near maturity.

The harvest has begun in some regions and will be starting in most others within weeks.

Wine makers acknowledge they tend to be optimistic about each successive vintage at this time of year, but they say this year's harvest is of unusually uniform — and high — quality.

"The grapes have a good taste and they are fleshy, and the state of health of the vines is remarkable — all the characteristics for a good year," said Mr. Bouetillere.

Though he was speaking only of Bordeaux, home to some of France's finest red wines as well as the sweet white Sauternes, his words were echoed by experts from other prestige regions.

In Burgundy, source of some of the world's most costly and elegant wines, "everything is going well," said wine industry chemist Odile Meurgues.

"We are entirely optimistic about both whites and reds, and for the Cote d'Or as well as the Cote de Beaune,"

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Taiwan president accepts invitation to Asian Games

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Defying Chinese protests and putting Japan in a tight spot, Taiwan announced Wednesday that its president has accepted an invitation to attend the Asian Games in Hiroshima next month.

China, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province, has threatened to boycott the Asian Games if Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui attends. A Beijing boycott would strip the event of many top athletes and damage its appeal to sponsors.

Lee accepted an invitation to the games from Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad of Kuwait, president of the Olympic Council of Asia, to "promote world peace and harmony," presidential spokesman Raymond Tai told reporters. Taiwan's Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien informed Japan's representative in Taipei of Lee's decision Wednesday, the foreign ministry said.

The Taiwanese move puts Japan in an embarrassing position. On Tuesday, Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Lee's attendance at the games could be "difficult" for Japan.

Japan switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1972 and said it accepted Beijing's argument that Taiwan is part of China. Taiwan's ruling nationalists fled to the island in 1949 after losing a civil war to China's communists.

Sampras loses to Peruvian Yzaga at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Peru's Jaime Yzaga beat Pete Sampras 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7-4) in the first round of the U.S. Open on Tuesday.

He rushed himself to the limit, "hit the wall," as he and a doctor described it, and still he refused to quit, his reputation on the line as much as the U.S. Open title he was defending.

Sampras had a blister the size of a quarter on his big right toe and another one on his other foot that caused him pain, but it was sheer fatigue that slowed him to a crawl in Tuesday's 3 1/2-hour match.

No. 1 by far in the rankings after winning four of the last five Grand Slams, Sampras was idled for six weeks because of an ankle injury going into the open, and his lack of conditioning showed.

"I just hit the wall today," the two-time open champion said. "The last four or five games, I was running on the adrenaline of the crowd. My whole body was sore. I just caught up with me. I didn't have anything left in the fourth and fifth. I'm not in great shape, and to win a slam, you have to be in great shape."

"I knew I might be stiff the first couple of rounds, but I didn't think I'd be to the point of exhaustion. That's where I was today — exhausted. This is the worst shape today that I've ever been in. The way I'm feeling right now, I feel like I could not pick up a racket for four months."

Sampras had worked out hard in the gym to get in shape, but that wasn't nearly enough.

"You need to play matches, and you can't get that on an exercise bike," said Sampras' coach, Tim Gullikson. "I've never seen Pete pack it in and I can't fault his effort here today. After the third set, he looked like he was going to pass out."

It was the first time since seedings began in the U.S. championships in 1927 that none of the top three men reached the quarters. It was also the second time the 23rd-ranked Yzaga beat Sampras at the open; he knocked Sampras out in the first round in 1988, also in five sets.

"I congratulate him," Yzaga said. "He never really gave up. That's what makes him a champion. Obviously, he wasn't feeling well, but he kept fighting to the end. He was very tired, and he was showing it. I was a little lucky in the last game."



Photo above shows Pete Sampras of the U.S., who was yesterday eliminated from the U.S. Open by Peruvian Jaime Yzaga. Right, second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez hits a backhand to sixth-seeded Kimiko Date of Japan during their quarterfinal match at the tournament. Sanchez-Vicario won 6-3, 6-0. On Friday, she will play Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini in the semifinals.

Yzaga next plays Karel Novacek, who beat Javier Frana 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 6-3.

No. 4 Michael Stich, the highest of the only three seeded players left, served 16 aces to beat no. 14 Yevgeny Kafelnikov 7-6 (10-8), 6-3, 6-2, to set up a quarterfinal match against Jonas Bjorkman, who beat Joern Renzenbrink 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (3-7), 6-3.

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Gabriela Sabatini each won easily and will meet Friday in the women's semifinals. Sanchez-Vicario beat Kimiko Date 6-3, 6-0, and Sabatini beat Gigi Fernandez 6-2, 7-5.

Sabatini, the 1990 U.S. Open champion, hasn't won a tournament in more than two years.

"I was more frustrated with losing to people that I shouldn't be losing to," Sabatini said. "I had some very tough moments and sometimes I thought of maybe stopping for some period of time."

Sampras looked as if he could use some time off. He played parts of this match as if he were slogging through mud, while Yzaga bounced around like a rubber ball.

Yzaga, 26, no doubt would love to have played Sampras on red clay at high altitude in the Andes. As it was, Yzaga ran him dizzy on the green hardcourt, winning from the baseline as Sampras sprayed unforced errors on crucial points.

"The three matches he played before, he didn't have anyone who would stay back and move him around," Yzaga said. "That was my strategy, to move him around."

Sampras' baggy shorts were soaked with sweat early in the match. He tried to overpower Yzaga with serves, but that wasn't enough. In a baseline duel, Yzaga was the steadier, livelier player.

Sampras would work and work for a point, only to slap a shot into the net or wide. He would look at his foot, slump his head, bend over wearily on changeovers. Sampras put on a gutsy performance just to push the match as far as he did in the fifth set.

"I was going to go the distance," he said. "I thought I fought pretty hard. I wasn't going to give up, retire, and let him not earn it. It's just pride. If he's going to beat me, he'd have to go the distance. I want to thank the crowd for really getting behind me."

Serving to stay in the tournament at 5-6 in the fifth, he slapped a forehand cross-court well wide, then watched Yzaga slam a backhand return past him for the match.

The blisters were only the latest foot problems for Sampras since he switched sneakers to a specially designed new model for \$18 million, courtesy of Nike.

He sprained his right ankle at Wimbledon and developed tendinitis in his left ankle at the Davis Cup, sidelining him since mid-July until the start of the open. A few days ago, the nail on one toe cut into another, requiring repairs on court. This time, he yanked off his right sneaker and called over a trainer to apply a pad to the blister early in the fourth set.

Sampras took rests whenever and wherever he could find them, sitting at

times on a courtside barrier, leaning against a wall, even stretching out behind the baseline for a few moments after slipping late in the fifth set. All the while, he was breathing deeply with a constant expression of worry and weariness.

Still, Sampras fought on, even when he trailed 5-4 and faced break-point. Yzaga let him back in briefly, driving a forehand wide, but Sampras could do nothing with Yzaga's serves in the next game. Yzaga served, and Sampras just stared at the ball, barely moving.

"It was kind of tough at the end," Yzaga said. "I kept hearing the people and they were pulling for him. It was like playing a Davis Cup out there."

"This is huge. I beat the no. 1 player in the world at a Grand Slam. It cannot be better than this."

Gretzky warns against lockout repercussions

NORTH HILLS, California (R) — Los Angeles Kings superstar centre Wayne Gretzky said he fears a possible lockout of the National Hockey League (NHL) players on the heels of a baseball strike will be especially damaging to hockey.

"I just think since our sport is on the upswing, it would be the wrong time for us not to be playing hockey with the baseball situation what it is," Gretzky said from the Kings' training camp.

"It would be tough for us to lose a lot of new fans at this point because fans are fed up with labour squabbles."

Training camps throughout the NHL are open, but only under the cloud of a possible lockout of the players before the October 1st start of the regular season if a new collective bargaining agreement is not reached.

Management and player representatives are expected to hold bargaining sessions next week in an effort to hammer out a new agreement.

Representatives for the players' association and owners have been without a collective bargaining agreement since Sept. 15, 1993.

The major stumbling block between the two sides has been what the players have termed management's insistence on a salary cap. NHL Executive Director Bob Goodenow has said there will be no agreement that includes anything resembling a limit on salaries.

Bettman and NHL owners have avoided using the term "salary cap," instead stating that some form of redistribution of revenues must be worked out in order to help smaller market clubs.

Bettman has charged that non-expansion teams have spent \$1.14 on player salaries for every dollar of revenue brought in.

Negotiations resumed last week after Bettman outlined a series of so-called take-backs that included mandatory two-way contracts, a slight reduction in roster size and the elimination of salary arbitration.

Benetton cleared in refuelling case

PARIS (R) The Benetton Formula One team have been cleared by the world council of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) Wednesday of a charge that the team deliberately tampered with refuelling equipment before the German Grand Prix in July.

In a separate decision, Benetton's appeal against German driver Michael Schumacher's disqualification at the Belgian Grand Prix last month was rejected.

FIA's world council, in a third ruling, decided that the McLaren team had used an illegal fully-automatic gearbox at the San Marino Grand Prix in May.

But they said it was a technical matter giving right to different interpretations of the rules.

They decided no action should be taken against McLaren.

Championship leader Schumacher was disqualified after winning the Belgian Grand Prix because the skidblock underneath his car was found to be undersized.

"Benetton were in error but they were honest. This was an honest mistake. We had no evidence to suggest they had deliberately done something to earn an advantage," FIA chairman Max Mosley told a news conference, referring to the refuelling case.

George Carman, the British lawyer representing the Benetton, emerged from the FIA hearing saying they were "very satisfied" with the outcome.

Benetton Managing Director Flavio Briatore, asked whether German driver Michael Schumacher would be racing again this season, replied: "yes."

Did Lovelock run first 4-min mile?

WELLINGTON (R) — A biographer of New Zealand Olympic champion Jack Lovelock says there is persuasive evidence he may have run a sub-four minute mile nearly 20 years before Briton Roger Bannister achieved the feat in 1954.

Writer James McNeish said the possibility Lovelock broke the four-minute barrier in 1935 was one more riddle in the story of man whose life — and death — are cloaked in mystery.

Lovelock fell to his death under a New York subway train in 1949, 13 years after sprinting the last lap of the Olympic 1,500 metres final in Berlin to win the gold medal in front of Adolf Hitler and 120,000 spectators. Suicide has never been proven.

The four-minute mile claim

was first made by a British doctor, John Etheridge, who wrote in the British medical journal in June 1987 that he had personally timed Lovelock twice at under four minutes for the mile.

"It's one more twist to the legend, and an interesting one, too," said McNeish, who followed up the claim in correspondence with Etheridge.

"I leave it wide open — it could not have happened, it could not, one doesn't know. To me it's one of those personal enigmas," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

"If we knew all the answers, it would cease to be interesting."

In letters to McNeish in 1987, Etheridge gave vivid accounts of the two runs in question.

"Two hundred yards from the finish, I screamed at him from the centre of the track: 'On schedule now — run, you Kiwi, run,'" Etheridge wrote of one of these occasions.

He said the runs took place in 1935 when he was secretary of the United Hospitals Athletic Club and Lovelock was the captain.

On one occasion, the New Zealander broke the four-minute barrier by four seconds. On the other, he said, the time was an astonishing 3 minutes 52.2 seconds.

The doctor said he had recorded details of the runs in notes and diaries. But at the time of writing, in 1987, these were in storage because Etheridge was moving house.

He apparently failed to retrieve them by the time of his death in August 1988.

"The question arises: Do the Etheridge diaries and records exist?" McNeish wrote in the New Zealand magazine the Listener.

"I have to take his word and believe that they do. It is the word of an intelligent man who clearly has no axe to grind."

McNeish said he was persuaded both by the degree of detail Etheridge provided, and the fact that the doctor was no friend of Lovelock.

Etheridge wrote that off the track Lovelock "miled" him, was difficult to work with, and an impossible social snob. "I must be quite clear Jack Lovelock was no friend of mine."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSCH
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A LITTLE DUPLICITY GOES A LONG WAY

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH: ♠ A 3 3, ♥ Q 10 6 5, ♦ Q 7 4 2, ♣ A Q 10

EAST: ♠ K 10 8 6, ♥ K J 9, ♦ K 10 8 5, ♣ 9 8 7 5 3 2

SOUTH: ♠ 9 8 7 4 2, ♥ 7 2, ♦ A Q J, ♣ K 3 4

The bidding: North East South West
1♣ 1♦ 1♠ Pass
2♣ Pass 4♠ Pass
Game

Opening lead: Six of ♠

To paint a false picture of your hand you don't necessarily have to do anything bizarre. Sometimes just refusing to win a trick when given the opportunity will serve the purpose.

Although North's hand is a minimum, balanced opening bid, the raise to two spades was surely correct, since South more than likely held a five-card suit. With a full opening bid, South wasted no time

in getting to game.

West led the top of partner's suit. East inserted the eight and declarer's jack won. A low trump was led to dummy's jack and East followed with the eight. Assuming it was an honest card, East could have only one of two holdings: A singleton eight, in which case declarer ran the risk of two trump losers by cashing the ace; or a doubleton 10 8, in which case declarer could bring in the trump suit without loss and score an overtrick.

In either event, possession of the seven of spades gave declarer the option of neutralizing four trumps in the West hand. Greedily seizing the chance for an overtrick, South returned to hand with a club to the jack to lead the queen of trumps, hoping to pin East's ten. When West showed out, declarer could not avoid the loss of two trump tricks and two hearts for down one.

Note that had East captured the jack of trumps with the king, or followed with the six instead of the eight, declarer would have roused home. The logical play would have been to continue with the ace of trumps and, when West showed out, declarer would have had no problem losing only one trump trick.

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Aden governor assures of calmer days to come

From P.V. Vivekanand in Aden

THE TOUGH-talking governor of Aden on Tuesday tightened the screws on gunmen in the war-ravaged port city and reaffirmed that no party militia would be allowed to exploit post-crisis chaos in his governorate.

"It is true, we do not allow the public sale or consumption of alcohol," he said, referring to laws in force in the country as a whole. "If anyone drinks in his hotel room, it is not my business. It is between him and God."

Similarly, he said, the governor's office was not linked to any enforcement of strict Islamic dress code for women in the south. "We have nothing against women," he said. "They are free to behave in any manner they want as long as no immorality is involved."

"The Yemeni constitution guarantees all personal freedoms, and we are committed to respecting it," said Mr. Ghanem. "No one has the authority to interfere in anyone's private life or any affairs related to public interest."

"I was born in Aden and I lived here and I know what the people of Aden are used to," he said in an afterthought, implying that his forces might move against Islamic extremists when the time was deemed right.

However, he accused supporters of the ousted Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) of running a "deliberate campaign through the media, the newspapers and through rumours that Islamic extremists are doing this and doing that."

"We will not allow any party militias to operate in Aden. The only sole authority here is the legitimate forces — the police force, the central security forces and the army," said Mr. Ghanem, speaking four days after Islamic extremists ransacked a mosque and a 500-year-old cemetery that they

deemed blasphemous.

That led to clashes with local residents and then security forces. Four gunmen and three policemen were killed in the shootout, according to official figures. Residents say the death toll was closer to 30.

We have arrested everyone involved in the incidents," said Mr. Ghanem, declining to give any figures but asserting that "they came from different factions of the Jihad group, from Lahej and Abayan" — two southern provinces adjoining Aden.

"Security here is strong and is getting better every day," added Mr. Ghanem, a close confidant of President Abdullah Saleh. "We reject any party, group, society or individual to cast any shadow over security and stability in Aden."

Having a single umbrella for security in Aden sounded more like an objective than a reality since ragtag gunmen could be seen all over town, many of them riding shotgun in the back of pick-ups, drawing hateful glances from residents.

Mr. Ghanem said he respected the role of Al-Islah as a partner in the coalition government with President Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC), but beyond that it would be treated as any other party.

The governor also dismissed as untrue charges of summary detentions and torture in Aden's jails.

"I challenge Amnesty International or any other international organisation to come to Aden and visit the jails here to prove their charges," said Mr. Ghanem, taking a few minutes off to talk to the Jordan Times against dozens of Adenis thronging his office with various requests.

"We don't have any political detainees," added Mr. Ghanem. But he said there were "Islamic extremists held on 'security grounds'."

"When the legitimate

forces entered Aden, they opened all prisons and released everybody," he said. "These included political prisoners who were held in the jail as petty criminals."

"However, we did not free the Islamic extremists from the Jihad group... they will now be subject to the due process of the law," he added. "They are not political prisoners."

The governor's claim was immediately challenged by some residents who maintained that political prisoners — some of them held by the southern Yemeni authorities since the overthrow of Ali Nasser Muhammad as president in January 1988 — were not held in Aden jails and it was unlikely that they would have been among those freed.

"Even those who were arrested this week are held in civilian jails," said Mr. Ghanem. "They will be referred to a court of law and subject to the process of the legal system of this country. So will anybody else who undermines the law and order situation."

Meanwhile, tension appeared to have receded in the city after three days of fear that Islamic zealots were poised for a showdown with the government forces in their battle to gain control of the religious and social life of Adenis.

Security remained tight, but checkpoints at roadblocks were markedly scaled down.

But many residents said it was only a matter of time before violence erupted again.

"The Islamists are biding their time," said an elderly schoolteacher. "They want to change our lives and our way of living through force and impose their own brand of religion."

"Why can't they just leave us alone? We are all Muslims and we don't need anyone to tell us how to behave as Muslims."



Premier Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan (right) chats with United Nations Secretary General Boutros-Ghali on Wednesday. Mr. Ghali who arrived on Tuesday for a three-day visit will hold talks with Pakistani officials on regional and international issues (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scientists say ozone destruction rate will peak

GENEVA (AP) — The destruction of earth's ozone layer is worsening despite efforts to cut back production of ozone-gobbling chemicals, the World Meteorological Organisation said Tuesday. "The worst is still six or seven years ahead of us," said Rumen Bojkov, special advisor on ozone issues to the agency. On a more optimistic note, Mr. Bojkov said the amount of ozone in the atmosphere could return to its 1950s and 1960s levels by the middle of the next century. Ozone blocks dangerous ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Scientists believe too much ultraviolet radiation can cause skin cancer and destroy the tiny plants that are the first step of the food chain. The WMO and U.N. Environment Programme on Tuesday released a summary of findings from the 1994 scientific assessment of ozone depletion, which will be published later this year. The assessment was prepared by 226 scientists from 29 countries and reviewed by nearly 150 ozone specialists around the world.

Police kill two car thieves

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli police Wednesday shot and killed two Palestinian car thieves after one tried to run over a policeman and the second drew a gun. A third Palestinian escaped and was later caught. Police raised the possibility that the three West Bank men had tried to steal the vehicles for later use in car bombing attacks in Israel. "It's very unusual to find car thieves carrying weapons," said Eric Bar-Chen, an Israeli police spokesman. Muslim fundamentalists opposed to the Israel-PLO autonomy accord set off two car bombs in April that killed 14 Israelis. The bombings came in revenge for the Feb. 25 Hebron mosque massacre in which a Jewish settler shot and killed 29 Muslim worshippers. Islamic groups have said there would be a total of five revenge attacks, and Israeli security forces have been placed on high alert during the 10-day period of Jewish high holidays that began Monday. The car thieves were killed early Wednesday in Pardes Hanna, a small town between Tel Aviv and Haifa. A Pardes Hanna man called police to report that his two cars had been stolen and police set up roadblocks, said Mr. Bar-Chen. At one checkpoint, a member of Israel's civil guard flagged down one of the stolen cars. The driver tried to run the guardsman who then opened fire, killing the man, Mr. Bar-Chen said. The second stolen car followed close behind at high speed and crashed into a tree, police said. The driver pulled a gun and was killed by police gunfire. A third man escaped but was caught later while trying to steal a car in the nearby village of Karkur.

Iraqi secret service officials reportedly flee

KUWAIT (AP) — Officials said Wednesday that two Iraqis claiming to be members of Saddam Hussein's feared secret service are seeking sanctuary from the Baghdad regime, which newspapers say is now cutting off the ears of army deserters. An Interior Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the two men were arrested five days ago after crossing the border from Iraq, saying the wanted to escape from "the brutality" of Saddam Hussein's regime. The Al Watan daily reported Tuesday that four Iraqis had been picked up by border guards and begged not to be sent back because the regime had recently cut off the ears of about 2,000 captured deserters and branded their foreheads. The official said only two men had been detained, but did not say whether they will be allowed to remain in Kuwait. He and other officials declined comment on the amputation claims. But a Kurdish rebel radio station in northern Iraq reported Monday that Iraqi security forces have sliced off the ears of some 800 deserters recently round up in southern Iraq and branded them. On Wednesday, the London-based Al Sharq Al Awsat daily said Iraqi newspapers have published decrees by Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council introducing this new punishment.

France crowns struggle to defuse row with China

PARIS (R) — France will cap a year-long struggle to end a freeze in relations with Chinese President Jiang Zemin arrives on Thursday for a visit his hosts hope will pave the way for money-spinning business contracts.

Relegating the sensitive issue of human rights to backstage, the French government will roll out the red carpet for Mr. Jiang's state visit, which patches up a row over French sales of advanced fighter jets to Taiwan.

"We're going back to where we were before two years of cooler relations. This visit puts diplomatic and economic relations back on track," Jacques Friedman, the main architect of improved relations and the chairman of France's biggest insurance company UAP, told Reuters.

"We had talks, then Prime Minister Eduard Balladur visited Beijing, and then we sent businessmen — the normalisation process has gone as we had hoped," said Mr. Friedman, who was first sent to Beijing by Mr. Balladur to try and placate the Chinese in July last year.

At the height of the row, Beijing denounced the plane sale as a violation of its sovereignty, ordering Paris to close the consulate in the booming city of Guangzhou. The jet sale led to an effective ban on major French deals in the world's fastest-growing economy — costing French businesses anywhere from three billion to six billion francs (\$515 million to \$1.03 billion) in lost sales.

In a high-profile, five-day visit to show the page has been turned, Mr. Jiang will meet a host of French leaders and businessmen and dine at President Francois Mitterrand's Elysee Palace.

He will also call at Bordeaux, travelling in a high-speed TGV train, and fly on a European-made Airbus to the headquarters of the Aerospace Company in Toulouse.

There is much riding on the speedy train trip. France hopes to win one of the

world's most prestigious rail contracts — the Beijing-Shanghai bullet train.

French businessmen are anxious to make up for lost ground and have strongly lobbied their government. Mr. Friedman himself hopes to be among the first to benefit from warmer ties.

"I think there are many things we can do in China and we have to start getting to know the country. I hope to visit China in late November. We have to be present in China just like other companies are," Mr. Friedman said.

French Foreign Ministry Spokesman Richard Duque acknowledged that Mr. Jiang's talks would be dominated by prospects for bilateral trade. France has only a small market share in China — 1.6 per cent against Germany's 5.8 or the United States' 13.9.

Contracts for business in China worth over two billion francs (\$384 million) in areas including transport and energy are expected to be signed during Mr. Jiang's visit.

France is Mr. Jiang's last stop on a three-nation tour which includes visits to Russia and Ukraine.

In their quest for better relations, the French have been hard pressed to juggle their efforts with criticism of China's human rights records.

In an open letter to Mr. Mitterrand, the French lobby Reports Without Borders criticised France for remaining too silent after it harshly denounced the crushing of pro-democracy protests centred on Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

"Western countries no longer have reservations about trading with a country which ignores the most basic freedoms. Because they are now freer than ever, the Chinese authorities are strangling all dissident voices," it said.

But Mr. Duque insisted: "When we meet Chinese leaders, we always raise the issue of human rights."

India, Vietnam sign defence, diplomatic pacts

HANOI (R) — India and Vietnam, forging closer economic and political ties, agreed on Wednesday to cooperate in low-key defence areas such as training and servicing Soviet-made equipment used by both countries.

The agreement was one of four signed by ministers and senior officials as Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao wound up a successful three-day official visit to Vietnam aimed at adding economic strength to a long-standing political friendship.

Other accords covered avoidance of double taxation, cooperation between the two foreign ministries and abolition of some visa requirements.

On the economic front, Indian and Vietnamese companies agreed to make closer cooperation on Tuesday by signing six business deals worth \$158 million.

The Indian firms will help Vietnam build a sugar mill and a tyre plant, make sugar processing machinery, generate power and fertiliser from urban waste, build railway coaches and erect electricity transmission towers.

The defence accord between New Delhi and Hanoi codified existing training slots

provided to Vietnam in India's Defence Academy and provided for servicing of hardware and further discussions between the two defence ministries.

"It's a framework agreement," an Indian official said. "It's not a defence pact. It's very low-key, and it's not aimed at any third parties."

Before leaving for Singapore, his other stop on a week-long Southeast Asian tour, Mr. Rao said his trip to Vietnam had been a success and Wednesday's four agreements would be followed by more accords to define areas of cooperation.

He met a group of Vietnamese actors, writers and translators of Indian works, and said there was "enormous scope" for more exchanges between the two countries which he wanted explored.

Mr. Rao said his first visit to Vietnam for 12 years had been very satisfying and "the beginning of a very close cooperation and a new chapter" in relations.

A joint statement said Mr. Rao, Mr. Kiet and their delegations "shared identical opinions on the regional and international issues of common concern."

COLUMN

'Bureaucracy keeps Canadian in Peru jail — lawyer

LIMA (R) — A bureaucratic snag kept a Canadian woman mistakenly detained last week under Peru's terrorism law from being released from a Peruvian jail, her lawyer said. "It's a typical bureaucratic procedure," said lawyer Rafael Huaman. "Her incarceration has been prolonged more than six days for absolutely no reason." Lisset Doris Barsallo, 46, a Peruvian-born teacher and law student from Vancouver, remained locked up at the Palace of Justice in Lima, he said. Paper authorising her release awaited the signature of Supreme Court President Luis Serpa Segura but was transferred to another court, Mr. Huaman said. "She's detained," he said. "We are going to try again tomorrow." Ms. Barsallo, once the publisher of a human rights newsletter, was visited by Canadian Ambassador Anthony Vincent, who also stopped in to see Judge Serpa Segura. Mr. Huaman said Ms. Barsallo was detained last week as she was about to board a flight to Los Angeles on a court order stemming from a 1992 charge of apology for terrorism. But the charge was dismissed in January 1993 and she should never have been arrested, Mr. Huaman said.

Japanese welfare rules put old woman in hospital

TOKYO (R) — A dehydrated 79-year-old woman spent 40 days in hospital after Japanese officials made her get her air conditioner or lose her \$800 a month welfare cheque. She collapsed in mid-July in the summer's record heatwave after selling the air conditioner in January when officials told her it was a "luxury item" even though she had been told by a doctor to get one for her high-blood pressure. "We had to keep to Health Ministry rules," a welfare official in Okegawa town said Wednesday. "Privately, I think the rule is outmoded, but we couldn't help it." Kou Suzuki told reporters that after selling the air conditioner she tried everything to keep cool in her cramped apartment in the Tokyo suburb. "I stayed in cool grocery stores during the day and at night kept my refrigerator open all night," she said. "They threatened to take the money away, what could I do?" But with temperatures nearing 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit), she collapsed with acute dehydration and spent 40 days in hospital — at taxpayers' expense.

Singer denies making pro-Castro remarks

MIAMI (R) — Cuban-born singer Jon Secada denied that he had ever praised Fidel Castro and said he planned to sue an Argentine news agency that attributed such remarks to him. "They are completely false. I have never, or will ever, sympathise with the Castro government," said Secada, a Grammy-Award-winning singer who came to Miami from Cuba with his parents in 1971. At a news conference with his attorney, Jorge Hernandez-Torano, Secada demanded a retraction and an apology from the news agency Telam as well as from reporter Carlos Puel.

Vanuatu appoints ex-convict as police chief

PORT VILA (AFP) — A man convicted of embezzlement, theft and dangerous driving is taking over as Vanuatu's police chief after being appointed by the President Jean Marie Leye. The opposition Vanuatu Pati protested that naming Luke Siba to the post was unlawful because of Siba's criminal record. Prime Minister Maxime Carlot and the Vanuatu Police Commissioner recommended Mr. Siba's appointment. But the move was opposed by the Attorney General's office and the Public Prosecutor's department, which said it was "very unhappy" with the choice. Siba, a French-trained police officer, replaced acting Police Commissioner Charlie Obel.

New U.S. Navy chief warns against challenging Gulf peace

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)

—The U.S. Navy's new chief in the Gulf Wednesday warned powers in the region not to challenge its growing stability, the day after his predecessor declared that Iran, busily rearming, is becoming a serious threat.

Vice Adm. John S. Redd, speaking when he took over as commander of the U.S. naval forces of the Tampa, Fla.-based central command, reiterated Washington's "ironclad commitment to the defense of the countries in the Gulf."

He did not name any potential aggressor, but the outgoing navy commander, Vice Adm. Douglas J. Katz, told the Associated Press Tuesday: "The threat from Iran is certainly growing."

Adm. Katz, winding up a two-year tour at Central Command's regional headquarters in Bahrain, said that the Islamic republic was building up its offensive capability.

He said that Iran's navy has recently taken delivery of four or five Houdang fast attack missile craft from China to beef up its expanding

naval force.

Iran has ordered 10 of the 68-tonne, steel-hulled craft from Beijing. It has also taken delivery of two of three kilo-class attack submarines it ordered from Russia, the first state in the Gulf to have an underwater warfare capability.

Iran is also well stocked with surface-to-surface missiles, many of which are deployed around the Strait of Hormuz, the checkpoint gateway in and out of the Gulf, Adm. Katz noted.

The U.S. ambassador to Bahrain, David Ransom, alluded to Iran's growing military muscle and to Iraq when he spoke at the change-of-command ceremony.

"Those who seek to export political extremism... must be resisted," he declared. "Those who do not recognise their neighbours' borders must be contained."

"Those who let their people go hungry while they rebuild an extravagant military must be deterred. Those who waste the vast resources of their people on senseless efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction must be

blocked. These are the challenges we face," he said.

Mr. Ransom noted that U.S. objectives in the region were to ensure "the free flow of oil from the Gulf region" and keeping open the Strait of Hormuz.

Western analysts believe that one objective of Iran's naval buildup is controlling the vital strait, through which one-fifth of the world's oil supplies flow.

Adm. Redd takes over a command that covers more than 27.3 million square kilometres of land and sea from the Suez Canal to Pakistan and from the Gulf to Kenya.

He has a naval task force of more than 20 warships deployed around the region. These include the aircraft carrier USS George Washington, currently in the Gulf, and the USS-Tripoli amphibious group.

"Peace has a price," said Adm. Redd, formerly with the office of the chief of naval operations at the Pentagon. He is a former commander of NATO's multinational naval task force.

Prince Hassan urges parties to end sloganeering

(Continued from page 1)

plan for amending other related legal instruments be implemented.

The document also enumerated five measures aimed at regulating government purchases to avoid and stamp out corruption.

Corruption, a number of the party leaders said, was rampant.

"Nepotism, bribery and cliques are in abundance," charged Mijhem Kheishah, the leader of the National Alliance Party.

"The slogan of the right man in the right place has turned into a riddle," Mr. Kheishah, who had served as the director of Prince Hassan's office, said.

Mr. Shbeilat, who heads the engineers association and who headed the 11th Parliament's Corruption Investigation Committee in 1991/1992 before his arrest in Aug. 1992, charged that "corruption now is worse than in the past."

Mr. Shbeilat blamed what he called "democratic gagging" and the "privileged class" for corruption.

Hamzeh Mansour, the spokesman for the IAF, who questioned the role of the commission, called for a national unity government.

"A national unity government would be able to address all our problems," Mr. Mansour said.

He said that he also thought democracy was in retreat, charging that "certain forces are impeding the democratic process." Mr. Mansour did not elaborate.

Prince Hassan then asserted that the commission was for "grouping people not scattering them."

He said that the new era of openness to the world required "new standards to confront the most vicious powers in the world."

Non-organised "openness would lead to chaos," as has happened in (Egypt), he said.

Normalising both economic and cultural relations with Israel would lead to catastrophe, many of the speakers at Wednesday's meeting contended.

The Crown Prince however was not as pessimistic as the political activists.

Since Israel was only a tiny state in a sea of Arabs, the "cultural challenge that it will face will be much greater than ours," Prince Hassan said.

"Israel is an ordinary state, and in the wider environ of the Arab World, it will not be special, especially if we work through our breaks and balances."

He said that Israel would ultimately have to integrate itself in the region the way Jews did at the early days of Islam in Medina.

Many of the participants in yesterday's meeting demanded that the government and the Royal Commission find solutions to unemployment

and poverty.

The governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, Mohammad Said Nabulsi, said unemployment could only be solved through investment into new projects that would create jobs.

"There is no way to increase income and deal with unemployment except through more investment," Dr. Nabulsi said.

He said the main task of the Royal Commission should be to enhance investment.

Dr. Nabulsi, credited for stabilising the dinar after its fall in 1989, said legislation and bureaucratic procedures needed complete overhauling to create more investment opportunities and spur the economy.

The debate between the Crown Prince and the Royal Commission on the one hand, and political party and union leaders on the other, was cordial but at times tense.

The Crown Prince had to step in at least on three occasions to remind speakers they were deviating from the course of discussion or crossing red lines.

When Tayseer Zabari, the secretary general of the People's Democratic Party, said that the Washington Declaration was not based on international legitimacy, the Crown Prince reminded him that it was the King, the symbol of Jordan, who signed the deal.

At another occasion, the secretary general of the Arab Democratic Party, Mazen Saket, was criticising privatisation while at the same time calling for civil service reforms.

The Crown Prince reminded him that he was a political party leader who was also working as a Ministry of Water advisor, a role he could employ to affect reform at his ministry.

